A

COLLECTION

OF

LETTERS

ON

SACRED SUBJECTS

by J. O.

COLOS. iii. 17.

Whatsoever ye do in Word or Deed, do all in the Name of the LORD JESUS.

SHEFFIELD:
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THE PREFACE.

I. IT will be eaſily diſcerned by the Reader of this Collection, that the various Authors, however obſcure in their Life and Reputation, have acquired a thorough acquaintance with the Ways of God, and are deeply experienced in his Work. The Letters themſelves will ſufficiently evince the Truth of this. For they are evidently the Productions, not of ſuch as are mere Novices in true, vital Religion, but of ſuch rather as have penetrated into the "Interiora "Regni", the hidden Myſteries of the Kingdom of Grace. By this it will appear plain, that they will be received and underſtood by thoſe only, who are endued with ſomewhat of the like Knowledge and Experience, or are really deſirous ſo to be. And to them, little doubt can be made, but they will be more acceptable, than perhaps any Thing of this kind, which has been before preſented to the World. The Reaſon for this Opinion is obvious: Becauſe, I do not know, that there

is any Volume of Letters beſides, on the ſame Subject, wrote by ſo many different Hands, coming from Perſons ſo different in their Genius, Diſpoſition, and Underſtanding; and conſequently diſplaying the glorious Works of God in ſo different, yet clear, and ſtriking a Light. What can we imagine therefore, more entertaining, more profitable, or more edifying?

2. It has been the general Opinion of Men wiſe and learned, that a Collection of polite Letters, wrote by Perſons of Taſte and Abilities, are a valuable Treaſure: Becauſe in them we may diſcover, commonly at leaſt, more of the Temper and the whole turn of Mind of the Writer, than in any other Compoſitions whatever. How extremely valuable then, in the eſteem of ſuch as have received the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Wiſdom that comes down from above, will be, we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, a Collection of Spiritual Letters, clearly ſetting forth, and thereby forcibly recommending the *Power of Godlineſs?* Free Juſtification thro' Faith in a Redeemer's Blood, and that Work of God which is afterwards carried on in the Believing Soul, againſt many and various Temptations, under the conduct, and by the operation of the Spirit, are the intereſting Subjects of theſe Epiſtles. And

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the latter often ſo expreſſed by ſome of theſe Writers, in the Account they give of their Experience, as may poſſibly be found a moſt lively Comment upon ſome remarkable deep and weighty Paſſages of Scripture. Particularly ſuch as theſe: *The God of Hope fill you with all Peace and Joy in believing, that ye may abound in Hope, thro' the Power of the Holy Ghoſt.---That the God of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Father of Glory, may give unto you the Spirit of Wiſdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of him: The Eyes of your Underſtanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the Hope of his Calling, and what the Riches of the Glory of his Inheritance in the Saints, and what is the exceeding greatneſs of his Power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty Power.----For this cauſe I bow my Knees to the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, that he would grant you, according to the Riches of his Glory, to be ſtrengthened with might, by his Spirit in the Inner Man; that* CHRIST *may dwell in your Hearts by Faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in Love, may be able to comprehend, with all Saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the Love of* CHRIST *which paſſeth Knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the Fulneſs of* GOD.----*And this I pray, that your Love may abound yet more and more*

in Knowledge, and in all Judgment; that ye may approve Things that are excellent; that ye may be ſincere, and without offence, till the Day of CHRIST; *being filled with all the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, which are by* JESUS CHRIST, *unto the glory and praiſe of* GOD. And if we may be allowed to conſider them in this Light, which after a peruſal, I believe, will not be thought unreaſonable, they muſt ſurely be unſpeakably precious to thoſe who are Lovers of the Word of GOD.

3. But leaſt any one ſhould be induced to think, by what has been ſaid, that they are exalted beyond the deſert of mere human Compoſitions, which will always be liable to Imperfections, it may be needful to obſerve, that I would not attempt to acquit them of many inelegancies and inaccuracies of Expreſſion, or even of ſome Miſtakes and Errors. The candid Reader, therefore, is deſired, if he finds any thing not agreeable to his Judgment, to remember they are wrote by *Men*: And by Men who make no pretenſions to infallible Inſpiration. But at the ſame time he is likewiſe deſired impartially to weigh the Subſtance, and, for the ſake of his own profit, to give the juſt eſteem to what is truly valuable. This he may ſurely be perſuaded to do, notwithſtanding ſome parts may not exactly concur with his Sentiments. For Moderation

deration and Chriſtian Love towards thoſe, who differ from us in their Opinions, ought carefully to be cultivated in all ſerious Minds; the contrary having been the occaſion of many very apparent evils.

4. For my own part, I take moſt peculiar Delight in thoſe Writings, which exalt to the utmoſt CHRIST my great Redeemer, his infinitely meritorious Life, Paſſion, and Death, and the exceeding great efficacy of the ſanctifying influence of his Spirit. Wherefore thoſe Books, or Sermons, or Converſations, which, however ſtrongly they may enforce the inward Work of GOD in the Soul, yet ſpeak but ſparingly or ſlightly of CHRIST's adorable rich Merits, to me ſeem to diminiſh their luſtre, loſe their ſtrength, and become far leſs uſeful. Nor can it be eſteemed, on the other hand, ſuitable to the Chriſtian Plan, under a pretence of extolling the Sufferings and Atonement of a crucified Saviour, to depreciate, by omitting to inculcate, the ſanctifying Work of his Spirit. We can never ſufficiently admire, or expatiate upon the former; but then we ought likewiſe as largely and fully to treat of the latter. May it pleaſe GOD, therefore, to give unto all thoſe, whom he has viſited with his Grace, "A ſound Judgment in all things pertaining "to his Kingdom"! May he alſo proſper

with his Bleſſing, this little Work, that it may be to the Glory of his Name, and the happy Eſtabliſhment of many Chriſtians in Knowledge, Grace, and Experience!

J. O

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LETTERS,

ON

SACRED SUBJECTS.

LETTER I.

My dear Friend,

YOU ask me what I "think are the "genuine Properties of an *hum-* "*ble Man.*" The Queſtion is very important; it deſerves a ſerious Conſideration, and a full Anſwer. You know I have not the Advantages of Age, and long Experience, yet nevertheleſs I will tell my Friend freely what I think are the Marks and Properties of one who is *humble*: And though I will not ſay but Humility may diſcover itſelf in other Ways, yet I will venture to affirm wherever the following Properties are found in any one; he is an *humble Man.*

He forgets not his former *Sinfulneſs*, and outward *Meanneſs* under the *higheſt* ſpiritual Diſcoveries, or the *greateſt* Advancement in Fortune and worldly Circumſtances.

He overlooks his own Righteouſneſs, and depends intirely upon that which is of God, by Faith.

The *loweſt*, and *meaneſt* good Work, is not below *him.*

He is forward to ſubmit to every Truth God has revealed, even thoſe which Fleſh and Blood are moſt averſe unto.

He lives neither *from*, nor unto himſelf, but *unto* and from the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

He *highly* prizes the *leaſt* Favour from GOD, deeming himſelf *leſs* than the *leaſt* of all his Mercies.

He *never* thinks himſelf good enough.

He ſmites and chides himſelf for *ſmall* Faults, as for *great* ones. He *quietly* bears Burdens, and takes Affronts without a Noiſe.

He labours more to glorify GOD *in* Afflictions, than to get *out* of them.

He ſeeks not after great Things. He ſays a little will ſatisfy *Nature*, leſs will ſatisfy *Grace*.

He rejoices in the Graces, and ſucceſs of *others*, as well as his *own*.

He will rather bear an *hundred* Wrongs, than revenge *one*.

Tho' he may be of the very *beſt* Abilities, he will not diſdain to be taught by the *meaneſt* Perſons.

He deems himſelf to have no *Wiſdom* to direct, or *Power* to defend himſelf, without the *Light*, and *Power* of Grace.

He prefers every one, (that in Truth he can) unto himſelf; thinking *ſoberly of himſelf as God has dealt unto him the Meaſure of Faith*.

Theſe are ſome of the Properties of an humble Man. And my *dear Friend*, who can forbear admiring the amiable Character! Who can avoid wiſhing himſelf the *happy* Owner of theſe *bleſſed* Qualifications? Here give your Heart full vent! Let all your Soul deſire this precious Mother Grace!

Grace! May the good LORD give you an abundant Meaſure thereof; then will your Holineſs and Happineſs alſo, be ſuch as is wiſhed, and heartily prayed for, by

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate Brother, and humble Servant.

LETTER II.

June, 24th, 1760.

I Hope my dear Siſter is preſſing forward, ſtill going on to Perfection. The Crown of eternal Life is juſt before you. Jeſus ſaith, *be thou faithful unto Death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.* Compared with this, what are all the Toys of this Life? What are the Riches, Gain or Honours? Yea what is Life itſelf? Account it Dung, for ſo it is, compared with Chriſt. O who would not love ſuch a Saviour! "Jeſus all the Day long is my Joy and my Song." My Life is hid with Chriſt in GOD: And when Chriſt who is my Life ſhall appear, then ſhall I alſo appear with him in Glory! I cannot expreſs how weak, helpleſs, and unworthy, I feel myſelf; yet Jeſus careth for me, and helpeth me to caſt all my Care on him. His Love is better than Wine! O that he may fill *your* Soul therewith! My dear, contend not about a *Name*, but pray that your Soul may be filled with the *ſimple, humble Love* of Jeſus.

I truſt dear * * * * is growing in Grace likewiſe, may the LORD make her ſimple and humble, and fill her with all the Mind that is in Chriſt. Adviſe her to retire with Jeſus, from the Multitude: For he is the Bridegroom of the Soul, and the chiefeſt among ten thouſand: That

he would ever look on us, may give occaſion to our crying out, *Why me, Why me?* O amazing Depth of Love Divine!

Loſt in Wonder, gaze no more,
Fall and ſilently adore!

Peace be with your Spirit.

I am your affectionate Siſter.

LETTER III.

My dear Siſter,

ON Tueſday laſt I received yours, and do greatly rejoice that you deſire to partake of that Holineſs, without which you cannot ſee the LORD with Comfort. O that you may ever account all Things but Dung, that you may thus win Chriſt! Hold faſt the Beginning of your Confidence ſtedfaſt unto the End; forgetting the Things behind, reach forth to thoſe before. It hath never entered into the Heart of Man to conceive, the Things God hath prepared for them that love him. But thus much you can conceive, that they are far, incomparably far ſuperior to all earthly Bleſſings. O that your Heart, and mine may be abundantly more ſenſibly of their Worth!

I find daily need to pray unto the LORD, to give me a deeper Senſe of the Greatneſs of his Mercies towards me, and of my utter Unworthineſs of the leaſt of them. Accordingly I find my bleſſed LORD Jeſus, doth anſwer my Prayers. I know not how to declare his Goodneſs! Let Silence ſpeak his Praiſe! Meet me my dear Love, at the Throne of Grace at Ten in the Forenoon, our Jeſus will certainly meet us both, and all our Friends who will join with us. I ſhall be glad to

ſee

ſee you all, when Providence makes my Way plain.

I am your affectionate Siſter.

LETTER IV.

My dear, *Nov. 22d.* 1758.

PRAISE God for what he hath already done: Let thoſe give Thanks, whom the Lord hath redeemed, and delivered, from the Hand of the Enemy: But you know a greater Deliverance is at hand. What have you to do, but to fight your Way thro' againſt the World, the Fleſh, and the Devil? It is a good, tho' painful Fight. Unleſs you yield, you cannot but conquer. It is true, you will firſt conquer by little and little: For "more of his Life and more you "have, as the old Adam dies." But there is alſo an inſtantaneous Conqueſt: In a Moment Sin ſhall be no more. You are gradually dying for a long Time: But you will die in a Moment. O haſten to that happy Time! Pray ſtrive and hope for it.

I am your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER V.

My very dear Friend, *Dec. 1ſt,* 1761.

I Am by the kind and indulgent Providence of God, got ſafe from the ****. And at my Return, to heighten my Joy, I met with your kind and Chriſtian Epiſtle. I heartily thank you for the undeſerved Favour of making me welcome to your Houſe, and Attendance: But my dear Friend, how will my Place be filled up and lack of Services ſupplied? There is a very large

Harveſt

Harveſt and but few Labourers: And beſides bad as I am, I am not quite bad enough yet to be laid up in the Harbour. I muſt take ſeveral Voyages to Sea, and endure many a Storm *yet*, and when I am quite unfit for the Ocean, I hope God will provide for me ſome ſuch Haven as you kindly offer, until he takes me up to the Place of everlaſting Reſt. Mean time I am unfeignedly deſirous, and do often fervently pray, that I may be guided by an unerring Pilot, that I may neither daſh againſt the Rocks, nor founder on the Sands, but (tho' ſhatter'd and Weather beaten, and ſadly impair'd in my Rigging) be full fraught with all the Treaſures of Heaven, that ſuch a crazy Veſſel can hold, when I creep into the Creek of Privacy, to converſe with *him whom my Soul loveth* the Reſidue of my Uſeleſs Days.

If you find that thinking on ſo worthleſs, and inſignificant a Creature, raiſes your Mind to Jeſus Chriſt, or if you wreſtle with God for me, your Thoughts will anſwer very valuable Purpoſes; otherwiſe, if you ſaw all the Weakneſſes and Folly which attend me, in the ſame diſagreeable Light I ſee them myſelf, you would never think of me, without Pity and Commiſeration.

I have had a very evident proof lately, that the Lord Jehovah reigneth, and doth what ever ſeemeth good in his Sight: One would have thought that the Doctrine which we preach would have met with a very cold Reception in the Place where I have been, and of Conſequence the Preacher of it, the ſame, but, contrary to human Probability quite the Reverſe has happened unto us both. The Doctrine diſtilled as the Dew, and ſunk into many Hearts; while many are enquiring, *what*

ſhall

ſhall we do to be ſaved? Some are ſaying what ſhall we do to be more abundantly Holy? Bleſſed Enquiries! Surely the Lord will ſave, viz. juſtify the Penitents, and give more, yea, fill them with Righteouſneſs, who *hunger and thirſt* for it.

My own Soul has often been watered from the inexhauſtible Fountain: But along with theſe happy Times of Refreſhment from the Lord's Preſence, I have had many ſevere Trials, and Aſſaults from the Enemy of my own Soul; but I believe that all his Malice ſhall devolve upon himſelf, and only make me more cautious, and awaken in my Heart a more implacable Reſentment, and laſting Indignation to him, and all his wicked Ways. Let me have an Intereſt in your neareſt Approaches to your Redeemer, and I hope *I ſhall not ſin againſt God in forgetting to pray for you:* While I remain, *Your ever affectionate Brother and inviolable Friend.*

LETTER VI.

My dear Friend, *June 23d*, 1760

I Was juſt ready to think you had ſlighted me in not anſwering mine, when your acceptable Epiſtle came to hand, and happily prevented ſuch a Surmiſe.

It gives me great Pleaſure, to hear from my Friends, whom I love: but the Accounts you gave of yourſelf, gave me more than ordinary Satisfaction. When you can leave all unto the Lord's Diſpoſal, doing your Duty, you are certainly ſafe and happy. Reſignation to the Will of God, is a bleſſed Grace. The ſure *Way* to *Hell*, is to follow our own *Will*; but

but the ſure *Way* to *Heaven*, is to follow the *Will* of God in all Things. Our dear Redeemer ſays unto all his Followers, *learn of me for I am meek, and lowly in Heart, and ye ſhall find reſt to your Souls*. But we cannot learn this excellent Leſſon without making his Will our Law at all times. We ſhould labour daily to die more and more to Senſe, and all ſenſible Objects and Enjoyments, retiring more into ourſelves into the Centre of our Souls, and there worſhip God who dwelleth in us, in Spirit and Truth. I know, my Dear, you cannot have much outward Solitude, and therefore you have more need of inward Retirement, and Recollection, that the hurry of Buſineſs and Company may not hinder your inward Prayer, and mental Worſhip of God. While your external Senſes are attentive unto, and employed about the Affairs of your Station, let your Soul attend to an indwelling God, and always hear him ſpeak unto you. Then it will participate more and more of the divine Nature, and feel the moſt ſenſible Enjoyment of the divine Preſence: And as this will be extreamly delightful, ſo it will be morally perfecting above any thing elſe.

The laſt Week but one, the Lord gave me Opportunity to learn Obedience by the Things which I ſuffered; the laſt, he gave more Health, and much of his loving, ſweet, and powerful Preſence. Theſe are the two Ways he hath of purifying Souls to himſelf; by the Fire of Affliction, and inward Burning, and by the Fire of divine Love. The latter is more pleaſant, but the former is more like the Way in which he led his beloved Son: But it is not for us to chuſe, let the Lord lead us in which Way he willeth.

My

My dear Friend, aim at all that Height of Holineſs which Chriſt hath purchaſed for, and promiſed to beſtow upon you. The dear Lord will bleſs you, if you uſe that Grace you have already received. I hope to keep you Company in the heavenly Journey. I am reſolved through the Grace of God that nothing ſhall hinder me. I long for all the Fullneſs of God.

" Oh! what is Virtue, why had I,
" Who am *low*, a Taſte ſo *high*?

Sure that God which has inſpired this Deſire, will alſo fulfil it, in my poor Heart, and in my Friend's. When you are favoured with free Acceſs to the King of Kings, think of, and ſpeak for him, who is unalterably,

your faithful Friend, and humble Servant.

LETTER VII.

My dear Friend, *April* 19, 1760.

I Have often thought of you ſince I left you, and it may be, you have not always forgot your *unworthy* Friend: Tho' I do not deſerve to be thought of, nor mentioned, I rather indeed deſire,

" To be little, and unknown,
" Lov'd and priz'd by God alone."

I always conſider myſelf, either kneeling before my Saviour as a Subject before his Prince, or ſtanding in his Preſence, as a Servant before his Maſter, that I may hear what my King will grant of his Princely Beneficence, or what he will command as a Maſter. His Gifts are many, and great, and his Commands are dearer to me than thouſands of Gold and Silver. Sometimes I feel all

my

my Soul carried up unto, and fixed in God, as in its proper Centre and Place of reſt, without much Care or Effort of my own, then all earthly Things diſappear, and all their Reliſh, while all my Heart is filled with Love, and Tears of Joy ſtreams down my Face. *Then* nothing is diſagreeable but the Thoughts of returning again to *this* World. Oh! who can explain the Bleſſedneſs of theſe Moments of Abſtraction! It is the beginning of Celeſtial Happineſs, an Anticipation of that exceeding and eternal Weight of Glory reſerved in Heaven for thoſe who love the Appearing of Chriſt. At other times I come down a little from this ſupreme height of Joy and there ſeems *comparatively* ſome Diſtance between my beloved and my Soul, then it ſpends itſelf in ſtrong Deſire, and never ceaſeth pleading, till I lean again on my Redeemer's Breaſt.

I conſtantly deſire to *do* and *ſuffer* ſomething for my Lord; but alas! I am not able, without his Help, to bear *one* Croſs, withſtand one Temptation, nor do one good Work, ſo that he muſt give what he commands, and then I ſay "Command "what thou wilt and it ſhall be done."

I imagine my Friend to be growing in Grace, and in the Knowledge of God daily, I hope I have not thought amiſs. Tell me, my dear *** *When ſaw you him whom my Soul loveth? Do you go forth and grow up as a Calf of the Stall?* Is there more Melody in your Soul, from the ſweet Turtle's Voice that entertains your Ears in the neighbouring Groves, than from the Inhabitants of the Burgh? I conceive you anſwer, *Yes.* But this is an unſatisfactory Conjecture: Put me out of

Suſpenſe

Suſpenſe, as ſoon as you receive this, and be aſſured I am,

Your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER VIII.

My very dear Friend, *May 12th*, 1760.

I Received your kind, and Chriſtian Letter from the Hand of my good Friend * * *. It gave me Joy to hear from you, and more eſpecially ſo, in that it brought me Intelligence of your Spiritual Proſperity, which anſwers my Deſires and Prayers. As I have made mention of you in my Supplications to God, ſo I ſhall now have more abundant Occaſion to thank him on your Account.

As you obſerve it is an inſeperable Property of Grace, always to excite our Thirſt for more. When our Lord ſaid, "He that drinketh of the "Water which I ſhall give, ſhall thirſt no more," He meant he ſhall not any more *inordinately* deſire the periſhable Things of Time and Senſe. But whoſoever drinketh of that bleſſed Life-giving Water, ſhall ever ſay.

"Inſatiate to the Spring I fly,
"I drink, and yet am ever dry:
"Ah! who againſt ſuch Charms is proof,
"Ah! who that loves, can love enough!"

Accordingly, they who have the largeſt and fulleſt Communications of his divine Goodneſs, and bleſſed Preſence, ſee, and feel moſt of their own Littleneſs, Helpleſſneſs, and Unworthineſs, and ſo do ever cry.

"I loath myſelf when God I ſee,
"And into Nothing fall;

"Content

" Content if thou exalted be,
" And Chriſt is *all in all.*"

I believe you have *now* learnt the happy Art of devoting *all* you *do* to God, by a pure and ſingle *Intention*: And therefore continue in the Service and Worſhip of your Saviour, *even* when you are diſcharging the Duties of your Station, as when you are more immediately employed in *Devotional* Exerciſes. Yet nevertheleſs, get every Moment you *poſſibly* can from your Buſineſs to ſpend in private; for this is for *ingathering*, the other for *expending*. Privacy is for excerciſing, more immediately the Graces of Prayer, Love and Thankfullneſs, and enjoying the cloſeſt Communion with the dear Object of your Affections; and the Incumbrance of Buſineſs, for employing Faith, Patience, Watchfulneſs, Self-denial, and Reſignation, which are as neceſſary in their Place, and altogether as acceptable to God as the other. In both let this be your Motto. *Whatever thy Hand findeth to do, do it with all thy Might.*

Your not having at all Times the ſame Degree of *Joy*, may be accounted for, from the alternate Exerciſe of the Graces above. It is doubtleſs more joyous to commune with God in *ſecret* than to be more immediately employed in Watchfulneſs, and Self-denial among a *Multitude*. But it is an unſpeakable Bleſſing, and Comfort, that in *both* Circumſtances, God ſtands in *one* Relation unto you, *even* that ſweet and endearing one of a *Father*.

I thank God I am yet in the Number of the living, whoſe Names are written in Jeruſalem, and my Life is hid with Chriſt in God. I have had a tolerable State of Health; how the Report

of

of my Death was ſpread, I cannot tell: But had it been true, it would have been my unſpeakable Gain; and it will, (Oh! bleſſed Proſpect) be *true* e'er long! Lord haſten the deſirable Period! Mean Time let us in Patience poſſeſs our Souls; and live by the *Day*, the *Hour*, yea the *Moment* with God, not knowing what may be on the Morrow: Always ſtanding prepared for that *laſt* and *beſt* Scene of human Life. When our Spirits ſhall ſtand upon our quivering Lips, ready to launch out into an untry'd Eternity. May they publiſh as they fly, *the Blood of Chriſt cleanſeth from all Sin.* I am inviolably *Your's, &c.*

LETTER IX.

My Dear, *Nov. 3d*, 1760.

I Received your kind and welcome Letter, I give you hearty Thanks for your Love unto and Care of me: I ſhall always think it my Duty, and an Addition to my Happineſs, if I ſhall ſo behave as to deſerve the Continuation of your Favour. I think the leaſt I can do, will be to give you Love for Love.

The Deſign of our Correſpondence being *Improvement*, in the divine Life, what will be moſt to the Uſe of Edifying, will therefore be moſt agreeable to our Intention, and I know it will be moſt pleaſing to my Friend. I have thought ſometimes that nothing is more likely to obſtruct or hinder our riſing higher into the Life and Love of God, than too great Activity of Thought, or too liberal Uſe of the imaginary Powers. The Enemy it may be has the greateſt Acceſs unto us at this Avenue, and has moſt Command of this Faculty

culty. If the Things are quite Innocent about which we think, yet that *Silence* may be diſturbed in which the Soul ought, with compoſed Recollection, to wait for the Manifeſtation of the Love of God: Unreſtrained Excurſions of the Imagination, keep the Soul too much in Action, unfit it for thoſe divine Impreſſions, which ſeldom comedown but when theSpirit is profoundly calm and ſilent. Seeing then there is ſo great Loſs in indulging our Imagination, even on theſe innocent Subjects, we ſhall find it very requiſite often to ceaſe from thoſe Thoughts which are only the Images of external Things and extend not to Spiritual Objects. This Practice excludes not that thinking which is natural to the *Soul*, nor that general, conſtant Sight, and Apprehenſion which it has of God.

It is certainly of great Uſe in the divine Life to retire from the irregular Workings of our Fancy, into that ſilent Awe that dares not move before the Almighty: This fits the Soul for divine Inlightenings, and ſpiritual Embraces; for the more quiet we are, the leſs Reſiſtance we make to any ſupernatural Impreſſion; and the eaſier we perceive the Beginnings of divine Attraction, and ſo yield ourſelves unto it. When the Soul hath attained the Power, frequently to throw itſelf into this ſilent State, (which Power muſt be attained by habitual Practice,) it will then come to clearer internal Manifeſtations, and intellectual Sights of the inviſible World: Many times receiving quickening Glances from Eternity, with thoſe ſtrong Infuſions of Love, which often bring the Soul into a Rapture. The Enjoyments of this

State

State fully recompence the Self-denial neceſſary in the attaining it.

Again, in this recollected and ſilent Waiting on God, we come more fully to perceive the true Ground of our Union and Oneneſs with all the Children of our heavenly Father; and the reaſon of our having more cloſe and intimate Communion with ſome, than others. The *general* ground of the Union of Saints, is that Likeneſs which they have one to another, being all partakers of *one*, even a *Divine Nature*, and being caſt all into *one* Mould, by one Spirit actuating them. The Reaſon of *ſpecial* Communion with ſome more than others, is, 1ſt. By being begotten unto the Divine Life by *one* Inſtrument. Had we lived among the primitive Chriſtians, we ſhould have ſeen ſomething of this: Thoſe who were brought to the Knowledge of God by St. *Paul*, had a peculiar Endearment to him, and to one another; and ſo, no doubt, it was with thoſe who were converted by *Apollos*, *Cephas*, and others. But *even* among theſe we ſhall find ſome, who are ſtill more particularly indeared to each other. The Reaſon of this is, 2dly, Their having an Agreement in their natural Diſpoſitions. It is not improbable, that this was the Reaſon of our Saviour's peculiar Union with St. *John*. The whole bulk of Believers are called the Body of Christ; now as in the *natural* Body, ſome Bones are join'd unto, and lock'd in one another in a peculiar Manner; ſo in the *myſtical* Body of Christ, *ſome* of the living Members are united, and their Spirits lock'd, or mingled in one another, as they *all* are not. This flows from the ſuperior Harmony, and ſingular

Agreement

Agreement of their Nature and Spirit. Grace does not deſtroy our *natural Diſpoſitions*, but rectifies them by that heavenly Principle, which reduceth our ſpirits unto the higheſt Perfection, by bringing them to their primary Model and Frame. The more alſo we ariſe above the Animal Life, into the Divine, and the nearer we are both to God and one another; the fitter Inſtruments we become to convey the pure ſtreams of the heavenly Life, with whom we are ſo united.

My Subject having detained me ſo long, I have not time to ſay any Thing reſpecting myſelf; but that I feel ſomething of this happy Union with you, and heartily deſire to improve it. Believe that I love, think of, and pray for you. I hope I ſhall ſee you once again here, or elſe hereafter for ever.

I am unalterably your's, &c.

LETTER X.

My dear Brother, *Oct. 17th* 1760.

THE Chriſtian Union and Fellowſhip I have often found with you, does not depend upon local Situation, but can ſubſiſt even when the Subjects of it are remote from each other. Tho' I am now abſent from you in Perſon, I am intimately near you in Spirit, rejoicing to think of your Union with, and Enjoyment of Chriſt Jeſus. I hope my dear Friend ſtands faſt in that bleſſed Liberty wherewith Chriſt hath made him free, and is not in any Meaſure entangled again with the Yoke of Bondage. O prize Liberty! Often think, now you have Grace, how miſerable you was wont to be without it. Only deſire one Thing on Earth, to make your Calling, and

Election

Election ſure. Be a Man of one Buſineſs, and Intention. Let CHRIST be all in all unto you: Let him be your Bread to feed you, and your Wine to chear you: Your Sun to warm and enlighten you, and your Shield to defend you: Your Rock to ſtand upon, and your hiding Place from the Wind: The Source of your Happineſs, the Centre of your Spirit, and the Object of your undivided Affections. Let Heaven be full in your Eye, CHRIST in your Heart, and the World, (where it ſhould be) under your Feet. Be a Companion of Angels, and the Spirits of juſt Men made perfect, in your Contemplations; a Friend to Chriſtians in your Converſation, and an Imitator of the lovely JESUS in all your Tempers. Be covetous of Grace, ambitious of Glory, and voluptious in ſpiritual Enjoyments. Be timerous of yourſelf, fearleſs of Men and Devils, and undaunted in Faith. Be little in your own Eyes, high in the Favour of the Saints, and great in the Eſteem of GOD. Be ſo great an Enthuſiaſt as to prize an *inſelt* CHRIST, and ſo weak and ſilly as to ſeek *all* your Happineſs in GOD: Tho' in your own Eſteem environed with involuntary Infirmities, yet in the Eyes of your Spectators unreproveable. Such as none but Devils and wicked Men can hate, as none but envious and malicious Creatures can malign, and as GOD, Angels, and good Men will never fail to love. Be an incarnate Angel, a living Inſtructor, and a Friend of GOD. In a Word, be a Pilgrim on Earth, a free Man of the new Jeruſalem, and a Candidate for the higheſt glory in Heaven.

You may eaſily perceive that I have a ſingular Reſpect for you, in that I would have you ſingularly good: And that I may contribute all I can toward it, I intend through the Grace of GOD, to help you by my Prayers, and animate you by my Example. GOD forbid that I ſhould recommend any thing to you, which I do not purpoſe to practice myſelf. The dear LORD JESUS help me to love his Name, and People, and Service, abundantly more than I ever did. *Ruth*'s behaviour to *Naomi* her Mother, ſhall be my Conduct to CHRIST JESUS, I ſay unto him, "I will not leave "Thee, nor return from following after Thee: "For whither Thou goeſt, I will go, and where "Thou lodgeſt, I will lodge; Thy People ſhall "be MY People, and thy GOD, my GOD." Tho' Death might part *Ruth* and her Mother for a time, yet *even* that ſhall, (I ſteadfaſtly believe) be a Means of bringing me more immediately into the preſence and enjoyment of Him whom my Soul loveth. The LORD make his Face to ſhine continually upon the Head, and Heart, of my dear, dear Friend; and give him Peace in this Life, and everlaſting Joy in that which is to come.

I am, &c.

LETTER XI.

My very dear Brother,

GRACE, Mercy, and Peace be multiplyed upon you from GOD *even* our FATHER, and from our LORD JESUS CHRIST. I have often thought of you ſince I ſaw you, and have alſo made

made mention of you in my Prayers to GOD. I believe the LORD JESUS will abundantly bleſs you, if you aſk *enough*, and *waver* not. You have exceeding great Reaſon to thank GOD for what he hath already done, and *as* great Encouragement to expect more. What a bleſſing it is, you were not *loſt* among the rich ones of the Earth, but are *ſaved* among the Tents of *Judah*. What ſhall I ſay to induce my dear Friend to be thankful? Ponder the loving Kindneſſes, and tender Mercies of GOD in your Heart. Think, O! think, what Scenes of Mercies have, *interſperſed* ſhall I ſay? Nay: have *fill'd*, in one uninterrupted Succeſſion, your whole Life! Let your Heart, your Lips, your Hands move only to His Praiſe. Think meanly of yourſelf, and that every Thing GOD does for you, is infinitely more than you deſerve. When you do good, and the Subjects of your Beneficence are unthankful, or even make ungrateful, or unkind returns, commend the Deed, and them unto GOD, who judgeth righteouſly, and who will not be unfaithful to forget your Labour of Love. Pray to JESUS to diſcover all the ſubtle, and ſecret Workings of *Pride*, *Self-Will*, and *Unbelief*, that may yet remain in your Soul. Let not the leaſt Uncharitableneſs have any Place in your Heart; no not even toward your worſt Enemies. Be much in the Exerciſe of Love to GOD, and all Men; and in Reſignation to the Will of GOD. If Men ſpeak Evil of you, you are never the worſe; or if they commend you, you are never the better. We are no more, or leſs, than we are before GOD, Al-

ways conſider yourſelf ſtanding before Him, as a Stone before the Carver, entreating Him to make of you His Holy Image.

Beware of the *World*. Be ſuſpicious that it is intending to do you Miſchief, in one Reſpect or other, if it poſſibly can: and therefore ſtand prepared, and fortified againſt it, as you would againſt a formidable Enemy.

I thank GOD I have had ſometimes Pain, and ſometimes Eaſe, ſince I left ***. I am in the Arms of Chriſt: He putteth his right Hand beneath me, and his left Hand embraceth me. I love Him, and will not go from him.

I cry, "'Tis Hell from Thee to part;
"Preſs me cloſer to thy Heart."

I ſhall be glad to ſee you again. Oh! that we may meet improv'd in Grace. The good Will of Him, who dwelt in the Buſh, and who accompanied the three Hebrew Children in the firy Furnace, preſerve and bleſs you for ever.

I am, &c.

LETTER XII.

My very dear Friend, *Oct.* 6, 1760.

AFTER my uſual Morning Exerciſe, I am now ſet down with a Deſign to appropriate ſome Portion of my Time to the agreeable Employment of Writing to my Friend, whom I dearly love, and highly Eſteem. Who knows the powerful Effects of Chriſtian Friendſhip? The Love which forms it, is ſtronger than Death, *many Waters cannot quench it*: It's Flame aſcends toward

toward Heaven, nor can it be confined by Time, or Space. How valuable is a faithful Friend?

" The friendleſs Owner of a World is poor;
" The World in purchaſe of a Friend is gain."

I acknowledge myſelf indebted unto the kind Providence of GOD, which firſt afforded me the Benefit of your Acquaintance, in which I find a real Pleaſure. But if our Friendſhip affords ſuch Joys on Earth, where many Things occur to interrupt, and imbitter it; what delight will it excite in Heaven, where all things tend to further and improve it? And may not this lead our thoughts a Step higher? What is the Friendſhip ſubſiſting between created Beings, compared with that Fellowſhip which we have with the glorious Redeemer? The latter as much exceeds the former, as the meridian Sun outſhines the Stars; for as they borrow all their Luſtre from the Sun, ſo the Friendſhip of Chriſtians derives it Being from their Union with CHRIST. Without this it would have its Foundation in ſelfiſh Principles, and carnal Affections, and its end in worldly Conſequences: The Motives unto it could be no higher than the low Things appertaining to the preſent Time, ſuch as Beauty, Gain, or Pleaſure; and it would of conſequence ebb and flow, as they had, or had not, a good Aſpect upon it. Whereas the Friendſhip of true Believers is founded on the infinite Love of GOD, fixed upon an immovable Baſis, *the Similitude of their Souls*; and conducted by inviolable Integrity, to the end of mutual Edification. It is not bound by time, nor ſubject to decay: Firm, and laſting as its Foundation,

the LOVE of GOD. It is kindled in Holy Souls by the Breath of GOD, and preſerved in Life and Vigour by the ſame, and ſo of the moſt noble, and excellent Nature. A celeſtial Plant growing on Earth. The Soil is indeed too barren, and the Climate too cold, for its arriving at full Maturity; but e'er long it will have its entire Conſummation, and perfect Completion, in the heavenly Soil, in the Blaze of the Sun of Righteouſneſs, and in the Climate of Immortality. It is not dependant on the caprice and uncertainty of outward Circumſtances, and a local Situation. There are now many high Mountains, broad Rivers, and extended Plains between us, but they are unable to ſtop the Flight of our Spirits, or prevent their mingling with each other. Oh! that our Souls may cleave more cloſely to the dear LORD JESUS, and in Him to one another.

If I might be permitted to ſuggeſt any Thing by way of Advice, I would ſay, Read the beſt Books, keep the beſt Company, and hear the beſt Preachers you poſſibly can. Secure GOD for your Father, his Children for your Companions, and Heaven for your Portion. Let your Heart be full of CHRIST, your Converſation ſeaſoned with Grace, and your Eye ſtedfaſtly fixed on eternal Glory. Let this World be conſidered as an Inn, Holineſs your Highway, and the new Jeruſalem above, the End of your Journey. *Receive* all, and *do* all the good you can while you have opportunity. Be a ſtranger on Earth, of the Houſehold of Faith, and an Expectant of the Kingdom of GOD. I pray GOD you may be a Plant of Renown,

nown, a poliſhed Shaft in his Quiver, and a Veſſel unto Honour. May you be the Favourite of GOD's Throne, and the Delight and Pleaſure of His Soul. In ſhort, may you be CHRIST's Follower on Earth, His Witneſs in Judgment, and a ſharer of his Glory in Eternity.

With regard to myſelf, my Health is but poor, my Body weak, and my Strength little. My Soul is dependant on CHRIST JESUS, loaths the World, thirſts for more Righteouſneſs, and longs for it's everlaſting Home. My aim is, the higheſt degree of Holineſs on Earth, and the Seat which is neareſt to CHRIST in Glory. Ambitious Creature! Yet I believe I have one above me in this bleſſed Ambition; however I will follow *hard* after you, as you follow after CHRIST, while I remain, your inviolable Friend, &c.

LETTER XIII.

My dear Friend, *April 20th*, 1760.

I Know nothing will give you greater Satisfaction, than to hear of the Succeſs of the Goſpel among the Helpleſs Sons of Men. And tho' I know you to be far from that Credulity, which receives every Report, yet you are too well acquainted with the Sovereignty, and unlimited Prerogative of God, who giveth Account to none of his Way's, nor is confined to one Meaſure of dealing with his Creatures; to reject every thing as Enthuſiaſm, Cant, or Deluſion, merely for having ſome extraordinary and uncommon Circumſtances attending it. You know well that the

divine Being hath his Ways in the Whirlwind, and his Footſteps in the great Deep, where we cannot trace them, and is as unconfin'd in his Beneficence and Grace, as in his Might and Power. If therefore what I am going to relate, bears the eſſential Marks of his Grace and Goodneſs, and is conſonant to his Promiſes, we need not fear an unpardonable Provocation in aſcribing it unto him; but on the other Hand, we may juſtly fear the worſt of Crimes, and the greateſt of Puniſhments will be the Conſequence of our ſlighting, or eſpecially aſcribing unto another Cauſe, what is ſo worthy of God.

About the middle of laſt Month, a few honeſt People in a neigbouring Town met together, as they had often done before, upon a Religious Occaſion, to improve their Acquaintance with their Redeemer, and *(uſing all Diligence) to make their Calling and Election ſure.* God who always countenances every well deſign'd Undertaking, and never fails to meet with his People in the Way of his Mercy, when they are found in the Way of their Duty, was preſent in a very remarkable Manner, where theſe two or three were aſſembled together. They began their bleſſed Exerciſe with ſinging an Hymn, and in joining their fervent Petitions, and offering them to the throne of Grace, which is always eaſy of Acceſs to every faithful Approacher. After deep Recollection, *Complaints* of the Depravity of their Nature, and their deep revolt from God, with intermingled Thankfulneſs for their free *Juſtification* through *Faith* in Chriſt, broke the ſolemn Silence. Con-

vincing

vincing Light from Heaven ſhone upon their Minds, and diſcovered at once, both the preſent Defects and Impurities of their Hearts, and the Neceſſity of their being *cleanſed from all Filthineſs of Fleſh and Spirit*, and of their *perfecting Holineſs in the Fear of God*. Tho' an aſtoniſhing Sight of indwelling Sin, made them tremble, yet moved by an internal Principle of Grace, and the ſacred Influence of the Holy Ghoſt; and encouraged by the great and precious Promiſes of God; through the Mouth of one, they pour'd the full Stream of their Deſires, in the attentive Ear of their compaſſionate Redeemer.

And he who hath ſaid, *ask and ye ſhall receive*, was preſent, and faithful to fulfil his Promiſe. Upon the Occurrance of theſe Words in Prayer, "Thou God of Abraham, Iſaac and Jacob, hear "for the Sake of thy Son, Jeſus Chriſt." one ſaid, (unable to confine the Joy he felt, in his own Breaſt) "Bleſſed be the Lord God for ever, and ever more, for he hath cleanſed my Heart! "*Praiſe the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within* "*me, praiſe his holy Name!* More like an Inhabitant of Heaven, than Earth, he cry'd "Glory, "Glory! Glory! be to God, He hath *cleanſed* "*me from all Unrighteouſneſs*!"

Another, being in Agony of Prayer, ſpoke to this purpoſe. "I hold thee with a trembling "Hand, but will not let thee go: I ſee by an "Eye of Faith, my Saviour turn to his Father, "to his God, and my God! Now he turns his "Face to me!" &c. And in a little Time he burſt out in the ſame Exſtacy of Joy and Praiſe,

as the former ſaying; "Bleſſed be the Lord "for evermore, he hath cleanſed my Heart!" Repeating the ſame many times over.

A third was heard to ſay, "To my own Ap-"prehenſion, I am hanging over the Pit of Hell by "a ſlender Thread;" while another cry'd with a loud and diſmal Cry: I am in Hell! I am in "Hell! Save me! Save me, or I periſh.

A fifth was quite differently affected, and with a Voice full of Melody, a Countenance full of Joy, and a Heart full of Happineſs, cry'd "Glo-"ry be to God for evermore, for he hath pardoned "all my Sins!

This continued for the ſpace of two Hours, ſome praiſing, extolling and magnifying God, in more exalted Devotion than is common to the preſent State of Things: Others praying to their Creator and Saviour with unuſual Earneſtneſs and Fervour. Some in the Simplicity and Warmth of their Hearts ſaid, as is natural for Perſons in ſuch Circumſtances, "O that my Husband, O that my Children had been here to Night! Others, O that my Wife, O that my Friends, O that all the Town had been here to Night!" This was a Time indeed of refreſhing from the Preſence of the Lord: (To compare little Things with great) A ſecond *Penteco ſt.*

If all the World our Saviour knew,
Sure all the World would love and praiſe
him too!

The Night following, the ſame Perſons aſſembled together again, and the Power of the Lord

was

was preſent to heal the wounded, to comfort the diſconſolate, and to deliver thoſe which were bound. As the God of all Grace, whoſe Mercies are new every Morning, and repeated every Evening, had greatly purified and enlarged the Hearts of *three* the proceeding Night, ſo he did the ſame for *three* more this Night, and unto *one* he gave the Knowledge of Salvation, by the Remiſſion of his Sins. Lord how wonderous are thy Bleſſings, how ſtupendous are thy Works! Here we may ſay with as greatPropriety and with far *greater* Wonder, than when we view the Works of the Creation: "Theſe are thy Works "Parent of Good:" You may eaſily perceive that notwithſtanding my natural Prejudice, (unto which you are not a Stranger) againſt every Thing which has the Appearance of Diſorder, or is in the leaſt irrational; this has *baffled my carnal Wisdom*, and fully gained the Approbation of my faithleſs Mind. It wou'd do my dear Friend good to ſee what a ſurprizing Change there is in the *Tempers* and *Converſation* of theſe highly favoured People. You cannot converſe with them, but (if invincible Prejudice prevents it not) you feel all your Spirit exhilerated and your Soul glowing with Heavenly Ardor, every Grace quickened and all your Powers ſtrongly gravitating to the God of your Salvation. The Humility and Meekneſs, the Serioufneſs and Gravity, the Love and gentleneſs, which you diſcover in their *artleſs* Behaviour, come with greater Energy, and much better recommended to your conquer'd Heart, than all that the moſt able Orators can ſay from

the Pulpit, upon theſe Graces. You are conſtrained to acknowledge *that God is with them of a Truth.*

I have already tranſgreſs'd the uſual Limits of a Letter, and treſpaſs'd upon my Friend's Patience, but I yet beg his Indulgence, while I offer my hearty Petitions to Almighty God, in behalf of my Friend and myſelf, for theſe divine Favours.

" O! thou Author of Being, and of all Bleſ-
" ſedneſs! Thou in exhauſtible Treaſure of Good-
" neſs! Who didſt create Man in thine own
" bleſſed Image, and Likeneſs, and has given us
" indubitable Proofs of thy Willingleſs, yea *De-*
" *ſire* that we ſhould be recovered unto our *unſin-*
" *ning State*; and who, for the ſame, haſt made
" the moſt ample Proviſion, in thy well beloved
" Son Jeſus Chriſt; ook upon thy helpleſs Ser-
" vants, and for the Sake of him in whom thou
" declareſt thy ſelf well pleaſed, fulfil in us all
" that which thy own ſelf intendeſt, in the great
" and precious Promiſes, thou haſt made unto *us*,
" and all who believe. Circumciſe theſe Hearts
" to love thee with all our Heart, and Soul, and
" Mind. From *all* our Idols, and from *all* our
" Filthineſs, good LORD do thou deliver us, and
" for the Glory of thy great Name, let thy Son's
" precious Blood *cleanſe us from all Sin*; that there
" may be no Occaſion of ſtumbling in us, that
" the Diſciple may be as his Maſter, and that we
" may perfect Holineſs in thy Fear, that ſo we
" may be Part of that Church for which our
" dear Redeemer gave himſelf, that he might
" preſent it unto himſelf, a glorious Church, not

having

" having Spot or Wrinkle, or any ſuch Thing; but
" that it ſhould be holy, and without Blemiſh; and
" we being as he is, *even* in this World, may, that
" with all his ſanctified Sons and Daughters, be
" exalted unto his Throne, and enjoy everlaſting
" Bleſſedneſs in his Preſence. Amen. I am

Your inviolable Friend in Chriſt Jeſus.

LETTER XIV.

Dear Brother, *Dec.* 10*th*, 1760.

YOUR profitable Letter found me ill in a Fever, from a violent Cold. The ſtate of my Mind was exactly as you deſcribed. With amazement I cried out, Surely theſe are the cauſes of my Complaint! I immediately endeavoured to reduce your Advice to Practice: And what was the Effect? O bleſſed be GOD, I know not how, or where to begin to tell you! My burden'd Mind got free, as a Bird out of a Snare: My Cares were caſt on my ever faithful LORD; my Soul was ſtayed on Him who is GOD over All, bleſſed for evermore. My freed and enlarged Heart, enjoyed his ſweet, and precious Peace. This ſtate I have been in ever ſince, my Happineſs increaſing daily more and more. Bleſſed be my adorable Redeemer, I have nothing to complain of; all is Glory, Happineſs, and Heaven! I have neither Fear, nor Care but how I may live unblameably in the preſence of my Beloved. Now I every Moment find, not only *Union*, but *Communion* alſo, with the FATHER, and the SON, through the HOLY SPIRIT. I am ſo elevated that I forget to eat my neceſſary Food: Even now

while

while I am Writing, my Soul is expanded to graſp the Infinite. O if we were now together, how ſhould we extol, adore, and praiſe our ever *living*, ever *loving* JESUS! But alas! how barren is human Language, let Silence ſpeak his Praiſe.

How my dear LORD will deal with me, or diſpoſe of me for the future, I know not, but I ſay,

" JESUS, I come thy Will to do,
" I come thy Will to *ſuffer* too."

But for this I have need of all the Light, and Strength, and Wiſdom GOD will give me. O help me, help me all you can: Do not withhold from me any Advice which you believe will be uſeful to me. I find Retirement, Solitude, and ſtillneſs to be very helpful, and now, (I thank GOD) I have better opportunity for the ſame than uſual.

But while I ſpeak of the goodneſs of GOD, how ſhall I deſcribe my own Helpleſſneſs, Ignorance, Weakneſs, and Infirmity! I cannot deſcribe it, but you can tell a little, by what you feel in yourſelf. I am loſt in Thought! How can it be, that ſuch infinite Wiſdom, Goodneſs, Love, Mercy, and Power, can join themſelves, to ſuch Vileneſs and Poverty! Angels cannot tell! O my Soul be content to feel, and enjoy, and ſay was ever Love like thine! Let me hear how JESUS deals with your Soul.

I am your affectionate Friend, &c.

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LETTER XV.

My dear Friend, *May* 11*th*, 1760.

I Now think it very long ſince I heard from my dear Friend, I hope it will not be much longer before I ſee you; then ſhall we be able to ſtrengthen each others Hands in GOD. By this Time, I truſt, the Storms are pretty well over, and that you had comfortable Meetings with Mr. C——, at your own Houſe. I ſent you a few Lines by him.

Do you ſtill outride all your Trials? Do you grow more *holy* every Day, by every thing you meet with? You will ſoon be harboured in Eternal *reſt*. I ſhould be glad to have your Underſtanding a Lamp of Divine Light, your Soul full of ſpiritual Wiſdom, and Knowledge, as *Jordan* of Water, in the time of Harveſt: I would have all your Words to be full of Grace, as Ointment poured forth; and all you are, a Sacrifice of a ſweet ſmelling ſavour, without any part *weak*, *earthly*, or *carnal*. O may your Saviour, and your Love, bring you to this ſelf ſame Thing. Rejoice, Soldier of CHRIST! Child of GOD! Walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith you are called. Remember the Captain of your Salvation. Fight! Conquer! Die, and live for ever! What you ſaid was made a great Bleſſing to my Soul, for *this* is what I long for, this is indeed being as a City ſet upon a Hill, and giving Light to all about it. But O what Weakneſs do I find! Yet GOD is my ſtrength: He enables me to go on Day by Day; living upon him, and looking up

unto

unto him. I have been tried ſince I came here, by GOD, Men, and Devils; through all I cry, *Thy Will be done.* O my dear Friend, it is well there is a Day coming, that will make amends for all. While we look to the Captain of our Salvation, we need not fear what Men can *do*, or *ſay* unto us. Pray for me, I have need thereof, having a weak Body and Soul; but my ſure truſt is in the GOD of ſtrength, and power. Give my Love to all Friends; accept the ſame yourſelf,

From your affectionate Siſter, &c.

LETTER XVI.

My Dear, *March 28th,* 1760.

I Expected to hear from you much ſooner than I did, however your Letter was welcome when it came: You have greatly the Advantage of me, you always know where I am, but I do not know where you are; yet nothing can part us but *Sin*, and ſurely *that* ſhall never do it. Since I heard laſt from you, I have been very ill in Body, and much tempted and grieved in Spirit. I often look with longing Eyes to my FATHER's Houſe, and groan to be cloathed upon with my Houſe from Heaven: Yet I can always ſay, My *dear* FATHER, *Thy Will be done.* I find I am more an Inhabitant of *Heaven* than *Earth*; few underſtand me, or are willing ſo to do; however I am determined to ſtand or fall with JESUS, and not with the Multitude. He is the Life of my Life, and the Soul of my Soul; I find ſuch a Friend in him, as my Tongue cannot expreſs. O my dear

Friend

Friend, I bear the Burden of the LORD; I am pained to ſee ſo few willing to be conformed to JESUS. One is of *Paul*, another of *Apollos*, and another of *Cephas*, but who of CHRIST? How many make their Religion to conſiſt in outward Things? How true is that Parable of the Sower! Only *one* ſort of Ground brought forth Fruit, tho' *four* received the Seed of the Kingdom. Theſe Things, with many more, are the Cauſes of my Trouble daily. But what ſhall *I* do? Labour to live to GOD, (in a wicked World) in Heart, and in all my Converſation, and be ready to hear that welcome Word, *Ariſe, my Love, and come away*. My Soul at preſent, reſts in GOD, and daily labours to be approved of Him: In all I do, I look to him alone, I live *on* him alone, and I live *to* him alone, and ſo am happy *in* him alone. This is the preſent ſtate of my Mind. JESUS loves me, he tries, and proves me, and leads me a Way I know not: But it is enough that I remain in the LORD's Hands, as Clay in the Hands of the Potter. As to the ſight I have of myſelf, Words cannot expreſs: How weak, how feeble, how poor, how helpleſs, how ignorant! I ſeem to be: Sometimes I think I do not know what I am good for! O Love and Mercy! O free Grace! O infinite Compaſſion! What ſhall I ſay! It is GOD; it is JESUS; it is the Friend of Sinners!

My dear Love, *labour, ſuffer, die* and conquer! Soldier of CHRIST, go on, and win the well-fought Field. Keep your Garments white and clean, fit for Eternity. I pray GOD that this may

be

be the Lot of my dear Correſpondent, and your hearty Friend, who inviolably loves you.

LETTER XVII.

My dear Friend, *Jan.* 12*th*, 1761.

THO' we are abſent in Body, yet I truſt we are preſent in Spirit; and may the LORD JESUS give us more abundantly that Mark of our being his little Children, viz. our *Love* one to another. *GOD is LOVE.* When we are like our Divine Maſter, we ſhall be eminently *loving* alſo. *Love* indeed alone, I ſee, can conquer this rebellious Heart. O that I cou'd truly ſay, "I yield, I yield at laſt, o'er whelm'd by *Love*, and fall, and own thee Conqueror!" You bid me write freely; I will endeavour ſo to do. Indeed when I am writing it ſeems always, as if I was talking to my own Heart, and Reſtraint is intirely baniſh'd; but when I am in company with GOD's dear Children, I find myſelf greatly unable to open my Mouth, and ſo oftimes I refuſe,

"His Righteouſneſs to impart,
"By hiding it within my Heart."

I find there is no other Way of going on unto *Perfection* than by *laying aſide every Weight, and* eſpecially *the Sin which moſt eaſily beſets us*, and ſteadily looking unto JESUS. He who is the Captain of my Salvation, does go before me, and would, (I know) quickly deſtroy all His, and my Foes, if I did but follow Him *fully*: But, alas! how often does Satan either divert, or drive me from JESUS. The Croud of my Enemies are mightier

mightier than I, my Courage fails, and I loſe Sight of my great high Prieſt: Yet I have good Reaſon to ſay, there is Mercy in Chriſt for every returning Sinner. Tho' my Heart is prone to wander from, and to leave the GOD I love, yet no ſooner do I return towards Him, than I find my LORD willing to receive me. I have been this laſt Week paſt, much beſet with wandering Imaginations, and this, and the other was repreſented unto my Mind: When I was faithful, and reſolutely turned from the Repreſentations, the Temptations wrought together for my Good; but if any wiſe I gave way unto them they brought Hurt and Condemnation to my poor Soul. I find it *very* hard to give up my *whole* Heart to GOD, and it ſeems to me that if GOD was to command me to give it to any Creature in the Univerſe, it wou'd not be half ſo hard as to give it to Him who is altogether worthy of it, yea and altogether lovely. What a Proof is this of the Depravity of our Nature, and total Apoſtacy from our original Rectitude, that we ſhou'd be ſo prone to forſake Him who is the Fountain of Light, Life, and Love, and hew out unto ourſelves broken Ciſterns which can hold no Water! In JESUS there is a Fountain of living Waters, ever full and ever flowing; there we may drink, and yet no Fear of its being exhauſted. O! the Riches of JESU's Love! May I, and you be wholly taken up therewith.

I find at Times, that my eye is Evil, becauſe GOD is good. O! how deeply am I fallen from all that is good. LORD give me to feel it yet more

more abundantly, that I may cry more earneſtly to Thee who art the Giver of every good, and perfect Gift; then wilt thou aſſuredly ſupply my Wants. Thy Promiſes are made unto thoſe who believe, and pray; O that thou wouldſt ſeal them all to my poor Soul.

I deſign to ſet apart ſome Part of the Saturday, every Week, for cloſe Examination of myſelf that by the Light of GOD's Spirit I may diſcover what Faults I have been guilty of, or what progreſs I have made in Grace the preceeding Week.

Tho' we may never meet more on Earth, yet ſhall we, (I truſt) Join in ſinging the Song of Moſes and the Lamb, which ſhall never have an End, but employ a whole Eternity. O bleſſed expectation, of living for ever to praiſe Immanuel's dying *Love*! Pray remember me at the Throne of Grace, reprove freely whatever you ſee, or fear amiſs in me: Probe the Wound to the bottom; that any Evil which lies conceal'd may be brought to Light, that ſo I may come to the good Phyſician to be healed. O May you ſink deeper, and deeper into GOD, till you be wholly loſt in His Fullneſs.

" Till He more of Heaven beſtow,
" And let the Veſſel break
" Let your ranſom'd Spirit go,
" To graſp the GOD you ſeek."

So prays your affectionate Siſter, and humble Servant.

Tueſday

P. S. Mr. B—— was this Morning ſtruck with a Palſey, which prevented our Friend meeting with us: M. M. ſupplied the place: GOD gave me to ſee myſelf very proud, and fooliſh; and

that

that inſtead of falling at the Feet at all, I wanted them to be at mine. O the preciouſneſs of that Blood which can blot out Sins of ſo deep a Dye! But I want to be made inwardly clean: Nothing I find but a new Heart will do. I can truly ſay I loath myſelf, but this does not bring Humility into my Heart; nothing but JESU's Love can do that. Pray much for me, and the good LORD grant I may be Earneſt for myſelf. *Adieu.*

LETTER XVIII.

My dear Friend, *Jan. 20th,* 1761.

I Heartily thank you for writing ſo ſoon: I truſt to follow your Advice. *Sure* my compaſionate JESUS will not ſuffer me to ſtop ſhort of the Mark, for the Prize of the high Calling, but His powerful Arm will ſupport, and help me, I truſt to go toward *Perfection* I feel, more and more I can do nothing, and that all my Strength conſiſts in hanging on JESUS. I feel often my own Will as a *Mountain* which ſeems to ſtand between my Soul and GOD; but I know, if my ſpiritual Zerubbabel ſhall appear it ſhall, before Him, become a *Plain.* I find Power to carry my diſeas'd Soul to JESUS, for Him to heal it, and I believe He will perfect His ſtrength in my Weakneſs: I feel ſuch a Teſtimony of the Faithfulneſs of GOD, that I cannot help believing He will Seal all His Promiſes to my Soul. I ſee the Word of GOD ſo firm and ſtedfaſt that it ſeems *indeed* I have ſure Ground to build upon. How can I have *ſurer*, ſince JE-

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sus has *ſworn* to deſtroy, and drive out all my Foes before His Face?

" My Captain leads me forth
" To Conqueſt, and a Crown."

I find I come far ſhort of being what I ought to be; and yet indeed I ſtand aſtoniſhed at GOD's Mercy to one who is ſo prone to leave Him as I am! Whenſoever I return unto Him, I find Him willing to receive me; when I fall at the Feet of His Mercy, I find *free boundleſs* Compaſſion for ever roll in His adorable Breaſt. He is the Friend of Sinners, and bleſſed be His dear Name, He is *my* Friend.

I had a very great Bleſſing on Saturday at Brother G——s. In the Morning while at Prayers, I felt ſuch a Witneſs that I ſhou'd ſtand on Zion's Hill, and behold the fair Beauty of the Lamb that died for *all*, as made me amazed! O what a Bleſſing is it, that there is an Eternity, wherein to enjoy GOD, and aſcribe Praiſes unto Him! LORD tune, and prepare my Heart now on Earth, that I may be more fit to Join the bleſſed Quires *above*. Take away every jaring String, then ſhall all be Harmony and Love.

I have juſt now joined a few Moments in Prayer with my Siſter, and both our Souls were greatly refreſhed: Our JESUS was with us *indeed*, and his Power reſted on our Hearts. She ſeems to be rather better, tho' ſtill in Pain and feveriſh.

M—— has great Confidence that GOD will give her a new and ſanctified Heart: She found on *Saturday*, while at Prayer with Mrs. ***.a

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ſurpriſing change in her whole Soul, attended with an uncommon Degree of Happineſs; and on *Sunday* at public Worſhip, theſe Words were ſpoken to her Heart with great Power, *My Will ſhall be thy Will, and thy Will ſhall be my Will.* Afterwards ſhe found Power to give herſelf wholly unto her Maker, to be diſpoſed of as he pleaſed: All her Idols were taken away from her, and all thoſe Things which entangled her Soul, are beneath her Feet: She is brought into a ſubmiſſive patient waiting for ALL the Bleſſings her Saviour has to beſtow upon her. Bleſſed ſtate! Amazing goodneſs! And all theſe Bleſſings flow from the Croſs of CHRIST: 'Tis his dear, and precious Blood which purchaſes all Things for us.

On *Sunday* Mr. *** preached from *Gal.* vi. 14, 15, 16. From which he took Occaſion to ſhew us, that by what CHRIST did upon the Croſs, he not only paid our Debt, and made ſatisfaction for our Sins; but alſo procured that Power, which when communicated unto us, from him, enables us to bear all the Calamities, Croſſes, Pains, and Sufferings incident unto us in this Vale of Tears; and to crucify and deſtroy every Luſt, Motion, and ſinful Deſire of the Fleſh. He alſo obſerved that all our temporal Enjoyments were purchaſed thereby, which Obſervation has ſince greatly endeared to me the Neceſſaries and Conveniences of Life which I enjoy. This I think is the Purchaſe of my Saviour's BLOOD, the Blood of him who is GOD, the Blood of him who is the Object of my Love. O that I might feel this precious Blood, which has procured my Food,

and Raiment, and every other Bleſſing of Life, always ſprinkled upon my Heart. I find much want of ſimplicity of Spirit, for tho' I can rejoice with thoſe who do rejoice, yet I cannot, (as I deſire) mourn with thoſe who mourn. I feel Pity, and Love to them, yet I have not that deep Senſe of their Sufferings, which I apprehend I ought to have. O that this ſelf Love was turned into the Love of God, then wou'd it flow more freely to my Fellow Creatures. O that I might ceaſe from all ſelf ſeeking, and ſeek *only* to know Jeſus Chriſt, and him crucified. May he bind my Spirit to his Croſs, and ſubdue my Will, and make it ſubject to his own and unite my Soul unto himſelf. I bleſs God, I ſee his Hand more abundantly in all Things, and therefore in ſome meaſure can in all Things reſign myſelf unto him. I know by that *little, little* Taſte I have had, what a reſt there muſt be, when there is a conſtant Freedom from inordinate Care, evil Deſire, and every other Sin: When all is ſolid *Joy*, firm *Peace*, and ſtedfaſt rejoicing in hope of that Day when Faith ſhall be ſwallowed up of Sight, and Death in Immortality. Glory be to God that you, my happy Siſter, enjoy this perfect Liberty; but do you go on alſo toward your full Conſummation of Bliſs! There is ſtill much behind! Reach forth unto the whole Mind which is in Chriſt; till you have grown up into him your living Head in all Things.

I give God Thanks, that he does make the barren Wilderneſs, a Garden of Eden unto you. Behold the Holy Jeſus! See he holds out for you

you the Crown of Righteouſneſs, which e'er long your Lord will give you the full Poſſeſſion of! O that we may both meet in thoſe Realms of Bliſs! his is the unfeigned Prayer of

Your affectionate Siſter, in Chriſt.

LETTER XIX.

My dear Siſter,

I RETURN you hearty Thanks for yours: And it is Matter of Praiſe that our dear Jeſus made you uſeful unto any one Soul, and that his Goſpel is likely to take Place in that barren Town.

I bleſs the Lord for carrying on his Work in my Soul. On Thurſday the 5th Inſtant, the Lord did manifeſt himſelf unto me in ſuch a manner as I never experienced before: it appeared to me as if I had been taken up into Heaven, and the Spirit peculiarly opened the Scriptures unto me. My Heart was abundantly filled with Peace, and Love and Praiſe. Theſe Words were powerfully impreſt upon my Mind; "I will water thee every "Moment, and keep thee Night and Day." And *indeed* from that time my Soul has been as a water'd Garden: The Lord has broke down the Wall of Partition which ſtood between my Soul and him; all that Day I cou'd truly ſay there was nothing ſtood between God and my believing Heart, for I ſaw the Lord, as it had been Face to Face. Ever ſince I find that the Lord has ſubdued all Things in me, unto himſelf. O that he may

deſtroy all that is, or ever would be capable of offending him, and I truſt he will. I find Chriſt exceeding precious to my Soul. In every Action I can ſay, I do this unto the Lord: Evil has not any power to hurt me, it would, but *Grace* is ſuperior, and Jeſus is *Love*.

I find much Happineſs at this Time, and a Willingneſs, that God ſhould bleſs every Soul before me, if it ſeemeth good in his Sight. Not that I can be in the leaſt contented without any of the Bleſſings he hath to give: All my Cry is, let the Lord be glorified, and my Jeſus exalted, and I ask no more. In a low Degree I can ſay, *thy Will be done*. And I do ſtedfaſtly believe it will not be long before he will bring my Soul into the perfect Liberty of his Children. Bear me on your Heart, up to my dear Redeemer's Throne. God has anſwer'd every Prayer, but that for *Purity of Heart*, and he will ſurely anſwer that, *Lord I do believe, help my Unbelief*.

Glory be to God only, for it is he who hath trod the Wine-Preſs alone, it is the Lord of Hoſts, the great *Jehovah*, the Almighty God, the Prince of Peace, that alone can do this Thing. Lord thy Arm alone can bring Salvation! O let the Angel of the Covenant deſcend, and roll away the Stone of Unbelief, and let me behold a riſing God in my Heart; that when the Sin of Iſrael, and of Judah is ſought for, it may not be found. Lord ſay Amen to my hearty Prayer. Help me Saviour, ſpeak the Word, and perfect me in Love.

My dear Friend, go forward, I bleſs God for what you *are*, and what you *do*. Love Jesus

yet

yet more abundantly, for *he is altogether lovely.* See he offers you a whole Eternity of *Love.* He has made you *a Royal Diadem, a Crown of Glory in his Hand.* He has number'd you among the happy few, who have waſhed and made their Garments white in the Blood of the Lamb, and who ſhall walk with him in White, being worthy. You have thus far overcome, hold on a little longer, and you will ſit down with our dear Redeemer on his exalted, and bliſsful Throne! The Lord give you all the Mind which is in himſelf, *and purify you, even as he is pure.*

I am your inviolable Friend,
and humble Servant.

LETTER XX.

My dear Friend, *Feb.* 20*th*, 1761.

ON Tueſday laſt we had a happy Meeting, the Power of the Lord was moſt amazingly preſent: He did *indeed* ſit on my Soul, *as a Refiner's Fire, and was unto me as Fullers Soape.* I was aſſured he was deſtroying the Man of Sin.

On Wedneſday I wept Tears of Love and Joy, moſt of the Day: And in the Evening I ſeem'd ſtript of all Self ſufficiency, and Self-will; and felt ſuch Propenſity in my Soul to cling to Chriſt, that I cou'd compare myſelf unto nothing, more fitly, than a drowning Man, who catches at every Twig in his reach.

On Thurſday Morning as a few of us were at Prayer, I felt my ſoul emptied of whatever defiled and burden'd it, and a Change paſſed upon all

its Powers, then I rejoiced greatly in the Lord, but I could not ſay I had a *clean Heart*. Yet I believe I ſhall never more feel thoſe evil Tempers in my Soul, which in Times paſt have had a Being in it. Since then at Times it has ſeem'd to me, as if I had been ſurrounded with the Powers of Darkneſs, yet though, in this Senſe, in Floods of Temptation, I find Power to truſt God, and caſt myſelf upon him. I have had, at ſome Times more Happineſs, and Meltings of Heart from Infuſions of Love, than I have had theſe few Days; but I think theſe have been abated by the Pain, *I* felt from the ſurrounding Temptations I juſt mentioned. I have ſurely taſted of my Lord's Cup. It ſeems, as if my Saviour has given me an Eſtate, but has not yet put me in full Poſſeſſion of it. I cannot think my Soul has yet entered into the fulleſt reſt which *remains for the Children of God* on Earth. I cannot *yet rejoice evermore, pray without ceaſing, and in every Thing give Thanks*. Yet I do ſay, *thy Will*, O Lord, *be done*. I caſt my Soul on Jeſus, and tho' I have ſometimes queſtioned myſelf, whether I was not angry, or proud, yet upon the moſt ſolemn Approaches unto the Throne of Grace, and the moſt unfeigned Deſires offer'd up to God, to ſhew me how it was, I cannot find, that in theſe Inſtances he doth condemn me, tho' the Devil doth.

Saturday Evening.

Glory! Glory! Glory! be to my God, I can now ſay the Lord has eſtabliſh'd my Soul in his Grace and Favour more abundantly than ever! While I was converſing with one of my Friends upon the deep Things of God, and excellent Privileges

vileges of the Goſpel, I was ſtrengthen'd to believe the great and precious Promiſes, and felt the Virtue of them, or had them accompliſhed in my Soul.

In our little Meeting, one aſked me if God had fulfilled, that bleſſed Promiſe unto me, EZEK. xxxvi. 26. *A new Heart will I give you.* I durſt not, cou'd not ſay but he had. While we were at Prayer I was ſtill farther convinced of the Truth thereof. I cou'd appeal unto my dear Redeemer: *Thou has cleanſed my Heart!* That bleſſed Promiſe was powerfully and ſweetly applied to my joyous Soul. *Ye are clean through the Word which I have ſpoken unto you.* And ever ſince I have been enabled to rejoice greatly. O bleſſed Jeſus, he is a precious Saviour! *Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me, bleſs his holy Name, who redeemeth thy Life from Deſtruction, and crowneth thee with loving Kindneſſes, and tender Mercies: Who forgiveth all thine Iniquities, and healeth all thy Diſeaſes.* The good Lord is alſo greatly pouring his Spirit upon many of your Friends and mine. They are on the full Stretch to eternal Life. O what glorious Goſpel Days do we live in! May our Lives be ſpent in Praiſe and Obedience, may our latter End be full of Peace and Triumph, and our Eternity Bliſsful. So prays

Your affectionate, but vaſtly unworthy Siſter in Chriſt.

LETTER XXI.

My dear Friend, *Feb. 28th,* 1761.

I Have nothing to tell you, but more and more of the Goodneſs of God! Amaz'd I ſtand! O wondrous Love! My Soul lies humbled in the Duſt!

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I can truly ſay I think myſelf the meaneſt of all; but Jeſus has, (in me) deſtroyed the Works of the Devil, and brought in everlaſting Righteouſneſs, and the Effects thereof are Quietneſs, and Aſſurance for ever.

At our Meeting to Day the mighty Power of God overwhelmed us! Siſter K. ſunk down in her Chair, and then fell to the Ground, crying. "Lord! this Day ſeal me thine abode for ever! "Deſtroy my Enemies, for they are thine alſo. "O come Lord Jeſus! Surely thou wilt come, "and wilt not tarry! We then kneeled down to Prayer; ſhe continued ſtill to call on God with all her Might for ſome Time, till the Lord heard and anſwered. She then ſaid "praiſe God for me, "he hath ſealed me to the Day of Redemp- "tion! The Saviour has made me, *all glorious "within, my Name is written in the Lamb's Book of "Life, and his Name is written on my Forehead! I "am the Bride, the Lamb's Wife!* O my Chriſt! "Lord! I the *vileſt* of all, but thou haſt blotted out "all my Sins! O thy great Power! I never did any "Thing but ſin againſt thee till now, but I ſhall "do thy Will, I ſhall now glorify Thee in all "Things! Lord! ſave all my Friends, Lord ſave "all the World!"

My Soul was truly affected with this, and ſunk down into deep Humility before God. I ſaid, Lord, how haſt thou raiſed up unto thyſelf, Children even of theſe Stones! O that I ſhould be a Witneſs of thy *Love*! *Indeed* my Soul ſtands amazed! *Four* in one Houſe, who know Jeſus, and the *full* Power of his Reſurrection! O that we may adorn the *Goſpel* in all Things, and be *fully*

like

like our Maſter, in Meekneſs, and Lowlineſs of Heart. I ſee at a Diſtance, there is ſuch a Height, and Depth in his *Love*, unto which I have not attained, that it makes me long to improve in every Circumſtance, and thirſt for more of that Mind which is in Chriſt: Even for *Perfect Holineſs* as much as ever I did for freedom from evil Tempers.

I frequently feel a painful Sympathy with thoſe Souls, which are awakened, but not joined unto Chriſt by one Spirit. And ſuch a *Love* to all the Members of his myſtical Body that I think I cou'd willingly lay down my Life for their Sakes to bring one of them to the Knowledge of Jeſus. My Soul is, perfectly reſigned unto the *Will* of God, tho' I feel the ſtrongeſt Deſire *to depart*, and to be with him, whom my Soul loveth. I ſee by Faith a Crown of Glory held forth unto me, and the Lord bids me fight for it, and aſſures me of a Conqueſt over all that ſhall oppoſe me. I am like a new born Babe, hanging every Moment on him in whom my great Strength lieth. Satan is continually tempting me, but I ſee clearly when he approacheth to bring the Temptation, the Door of my Heart is ſhut, and the Enemy cannot enter in. I alſo diſcover, as the Soul grows in Grace, it gets farther out of the Enemy's reach. My Foot is ſet on Satan's Neck, and Salvation is appointed for Walls and Bulwarks. O that I may ever ſtand on an high Hill, and have (as you expreſs it) my Enemies, as crawling Inſects at the bottom thereof. I deſire to follow your Advice and learn of all who are *taught* of God, and are

ſimple of Heart. When any Doubt ariſes in my Mind, whether ſuch a *Thought* or *Word*, or *Action*, was ſinful; for a ſpeedy, and ſure Reſolution of *this*, I turn from all Things, unto God, and deſire him to ſhine upon my Underſtanding, and Conſcience, and convince me *truly* of what Quality my Actions are, and what Spirit I am of; and he has always graciouſly anſwer'd to the great Satisfaction of my Soul.

On Saturday at Morning Preaching, I was telling the Lord that there was *nothing* but what I would willingly give up for him; I had a ſtrong Impreſſion that ſo it was, for, the Spirit ſuggeſted, "thou haſt given me *all*, for thou haſt given me "thy *whole Heart*." It was alſo applyed to my Mind in the Morning, *ariſe, ſhine, for thy Light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is riſen upon thee.* Lord! what am I! I am *nothing*; but *thou* art *all in all.*

I am very glad, that God gives you to drink into his loving Spirit, and that you riſe higher, and higher into his Life and Likeneſs. O my dear, he has abundantly more to beſtow! Let us join in bleſſing and praiſing our dear Jeſus, and meet at ſome Hour in the Day, at the Throne of Grace. Glory! be to God, we ſhall meet, e'er long at his right Hand, and ſee his lovely Face, without a dimming Vail! We ſhall join that enraptur'd Number, *which came out of great Tribulations, and waſh'd and made their Robes white in the Blood of the Lamb.* We ſhall caſt our Crowns before his Feet and aſcribe, *Salvation, Glory, Honour*, and *Praiſe* to God, and the Lamb for ever! *Precious Saviour!*

O how rich, that Grace which is ſo freely beſtowed! How amazing that Love, which induced him to leave the Boſom of his Father, and empty himſelf of his Glory, *Yea*, and ſuffer Death, *even* the Death of the Croſs, that *we, vile Creatures*, might be brought *into* the Favour, and reſtor'd *unto* the *Image* of God! O that we may *both love* him more abundantly, until we riſe to all the glorious Height of *humble Love*. And what will be the End? O rapturous Proſpect! *Corruption, will put on Incorruption, and this mortal, ſhall put on Immortality*, and Prayer ſhall be ſwallowed up of Praiſe! Then will all be unfading, never ending Bliſs: Sorrow and Sighing, ſhall flee away, and Trials, and Temptations be no more! The dear Lord Jeſus be near to your Heart, and make you faithful and fruitful; holy, and happy; then will your be State ſuch as is wiſh'd, by

Your ever loving, but unworthy Siſter.

LETTER XXII.

My very dear Brother, *March* 10, 1761.

I Hope we are both agreed with CHRIST, according to the Articles of Peace propounded to us in a preached Goſpel. We have made *Him* our Foundation, and City of Refuge; in whom we have Redemption thro' his Blood, the Forgiveneſs of Sins, according to the excellency and riches of his free Grace, wherein He hath abounded unto *us*, and *all* who believe on his bleſſed *Name*.

Now what prudential Means ſhall we uſe in Order to grow in this divine Knowledge? As you

are better ſkill'd in this happy Art, and further advanced in Grace, and Chriſtian Holineſs, I think you ſhould point out thoſe Means by which you attained the *Pearl* of *Perfect Love*; and by Grace I'll follow your Directions. But as you have aſked the Queſtion, I'll venture to give you my Opinion.

Firſt, I deſire to *hear*, *read*, *mark*, *learn*, and with a good ſpiritual Apoſtle inwardly *digeſt*, GOD's moſt Holy WORD, and make it a ſtanding Rule, in all Reſpects, of my Faith and Practice.

Secondly, I deſire to *pray* with *all Prayer*, private and public, mental and vocal, at all *Times*, and in every *Place*, and in every *State*, and *Circumſtance* of Life: And alſo make my Maker's Law the Subject of my Meditations in the Night Seaſon upon my Bed.

Thirdly, I deſire to *faſt*, or uſe *Abſtinence*, as my bodily Health and Conſtitution will admit.

Fourthly, I deſire to communicate at all proper Seaſons, but *earneſtly* long for *ſanctified* Altars, *holy* Miniſters, and *living* Communicants: LORD! HOW LONG?

Fifthly, I deſire to *do good* unto all Men, Friends and Enemies, according to my little Ability as the *Word of Truth* directs; and lay out my Strength in his *Service* at Home and Abroad, in the Way and Manner he ſhall point out, according to his unerring Providence.

Sixthly, I deſire to hew *Agag* in Pieces; to put away *every Dalilah*, and to Sacrifice *every Iſaac:* If required, to pluck out *every* right *Eye*, to cut of *every* right *Hand*, to ſpare none, tho' ever ſo near

and

and dear unto the *old Man:* And I hope all this without *Partiality.* In a Word, I desire to put on the whole *Divine Panoply,* whereby I shall overcome all the Infernal Powers of Hell and Death: And after I have done all *this,* I desire to look over, and thro' all *Shadows,* unto the *Eternal* SAVIOUR, who died on Mount *Calvary,* with all the Faith he has given me, till I *be rooted, and grounded in LOVE, and able to comprehend with all Saints what is the Breadth, and Length, and Depth, and Height; and to know the LOVE* OF *CHRIST which passeth Knowledge; that I may be* FILLED *with all the* FULLNESS OF *GOD.* What can a *Worm* do more to gain the Prize? If my Friend will take Notice of any Means I have omitted, or shew me better than I have mentioned, I will comply with his Directions. I want to save my Soul, and that GOD's own Way. I have *already* seen His Wonders in the Land of *Egypt,* in the *Red-Sea,* and in the barren *Wilderness;* and shall I not see his GLORY in the LAND of PROMISE? *I cannot fear! His Mercy endureth for ever!*

I remain your affectionate Friend,
but very unworthy Brother.

LETTER XXIII.

My very dear Friend, *March* 17, 1761.

YOUR extreamly loving, Christian, and obliging Letter, added to the rest of your former unmeritted Favours and Indulgences, have laid me under Obligation to make some return. But I am sure *my* Ability is so far disproportionate

to my Friend's Benefits and Kindneſſes, that I know not how to go about it. I have only this to offer in my behalf, and to encourage me, that the Gratitude and good meaning of my Heart, is better than the *poor* Contrivance of my *dull Head*, and whatever may be wanting, or wrong in *either*, my Friend's Charity and Candor, will paſs over, or forgive. The other Day I was looking over my Papers, and found the following *Receipt*, which in the Freedom and Confidence of Friendſhip, I communicate unto you: If it ſhall pleaſe God that it may innocently divert you from any Thing *worſe*, or increaſe your Attachment to the moſt excellent *Good*, I ſhall be as well pleaſed, and think myſelf as much intereſted in the ſame, as my dear Friend.

Take three Ounces of the bitter Aloes of Repentance, two large Handful of Rue-for-Sin; five Ounces of the Tincture of Goſpel-faith; ſix Ounces of Love's-elixir; three Pints of the Juce of the Vine which ſtood in *Paliſtine*; four Handful of the Leaves of Lignum Vita; five Table Spoonful of the pure Oil Olive, tranſmitted thro' the Golden Pipes; ten large Handful of the Leaves of a Shrub which always grows in the Valley, the Name of the Leaf is Lowly-mind; ſeven large Bunches of the Grapes of Obedience-new; three Handful of Anti-error; three Ounces of the Ginger of Heavenly-deſire; and an equal Quantity of Untir'd-patience, and Immortal-hope; And ten Gallons of the Water-of-Life: Make a Decoction of theſe Ingredients, proper for the Purpoſe; infuſe the Liquids, drink a Pint every Morning

ing faſting, when the Weather is calm, and the Sky ſerene, with the Addition of two Spoonful of Anti-ſelf-conceit, in each Draught.

This Decoction is a moſt excellent Remedy againſt *all* Diſeaſes of the *Heart*, and *moſt* of the *Head:* It cures or prevents all Griping in the *Conſcience*, and ſtops Looſneſs in the *Converſation*. It cures Hardneſs of Heart, and Stupefaction of Mind: It heals all Maladies, incident to the Affections: It ſtops the Proceedings of Laughter-madneſs; is a ſure Remedy againſt the Inordinancy of Paſſion, and the Spleen: Is an excellent Preſervative againſt *Deſtruction and Tophets-fire*; it cures that moſt common and mortal Diſeaſe of *Hope-without-ground:* In ſhort, with frequent Repetitions, it irradicates the very Roots of every Malady, it *fully* rectifies the Blood and Spirits, and is a never-failing *Balſom* of Life; it has now been tried for upwards of *Seventeen Hundred* Years, and never was known to fail in *one* Inſtance, in thoſe who uſed according to *Preſcription*.

N. B. The above Ingredients can *only* be had of *IMMANUEL* the great APOTHECARY, at the End of *Pilgrim-Road*, *Saint's-Square*, *Sion's Hill*, NEW-JERUSALEM. Given Gratis at his *own Shop*, to *every faithful* PETITIONER.

If my dear Friend is diſpoſed, (as I have no doubt but he is) to take this excellent Medicine, I will not fail to add my poor Prayers for its ſucceſs: Who am

Your affectionate Brother,

inviolable Friend, and humble Servant

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

My dear Siſter, *Oct. 19th* 1760.

I Thank you for your kind Letter, and all other Favours. I deſire, and I hope in ſome Meaſure I do, grow in Holineſs, for nothing leſs than the higheſt Degree of it, which can be attained on Earth, and the Seat which is neareſt to Chriſt in Heaven, is my Aim. Do you not think me very ambitious? Lord make me more ſo. Indeed there are none ſo unworthy of what God beſtows upon them as I am of that which he beſtows upon me. Yet, my Advice is, let us loſe Nothing of all that which the dear Redeemer has purchaſed for us, and promiſed unto us. *If we ask, we ſhall receive; if we ſeek we ſhall find.* The Lord, the Source of *Love*, kindle ſuch a Flame in my dear Friend's *Heart* as may ever burn 'till it mingles with the Blaze of eternal Day: Mean Time, may it burn up all Droſs and Tin, of Self-Sufficiency, and Pride, and all dependency upon any thing that is not of God.

O may you gain Perfection's Height,
And into Nothing fall;
Be leſs than Nothing in your Sight,
And Chriſt be All in all.

I ſhould be glad to ſee you here, my Place of Abode is now very comfortable: Lord how am I favoured! My Delight is in thoſe who excel in Virtue: My Soul loaths this World, thirſts for more Grace, and longs for its Home. Yet I am willing to wait: Good is the Will of the Lord: 'Tis all Love. Pray give my kind Reſpects to all Friends. Pray for your unworthy Siſter: God bleſs you. FAREWELL.

LET-

LETTER XXV.

April 1760.

My dear Brother in our common Lord,

I WISH you all Manner of Proſperity, and could wiſh myſelf along with you ſtill: I own I do love you, and I pray that God may love you, and enable you to love him more and more to all Eternity; I hope you find you do, by feeling your Mind more and more weaned from the Creature, and fixed on God the Creator: Alſo by guarding and ſtriving more againſt Sin, and by feeling in you more Zeal for Jeſus's Glory, and more Earneſtneſs for promoting his Honour and Intereſt among Men: And that you learn daily to take Warning from the Falls of others to watch and pray that you may be able to ſtand faſt in the true Faith, and quit yourſelf as a Man of God. Oh! that your whole Soul may be drawn out in Thankfulneſs to the adorable Jeſus, that hitherto you have been preſerved from diſhonouring, and bringing a Scandel upon the ſweet and bleſſed Name of Jeſus, and his holy Religion, of which you are both a Profeſſor and a Preacher. *Conſider:* O what a Bleſſing it is to be kept from Sin, when perhaps both Temptation unto it, and Opportunity for it concurred! The Lord make us watchful, and thankful, and direct and enable us at all Times, and in all Places to do his perfect Will. Oh! Lord defend *me* in the *Hour*, and from the *Power* of Temptation, and this I heartily wiſh for *you*, as for myſelf.

I muſt own that precious *Chriſt*, his *Bible* and *Love-Letters* are more ſweet than ever to my Soul:

But

But, O Lord, make them yet more abundantly ſweet! I cannot deny but that the People in * * * are willing to hear the Word of the Lord *even* in my rough, blundering Way: And both my poor Soul and theirs, are often refreſhed by feeling the ſweet and powerful Preſence of Chriſt, while we are together. Oh! bleſſed Jeſus, be thou our *Everlaſting Righteouſneſs and Strength!* The Work of the Lord in general proſpers among us, which gives me great Joy.

Yet after all this, I feel many a broad Side from Hell, and ſometimes from theſe carnal Imps within. They ſometimes ſtorm ſo thick, and attack ſo hard and faſt, that while I am ſtriving to put them out at the Door, they are likely to come in at the Windows, and the Imps *within*, no ſooner have Intelligence of thoſe *without*, but they with what Life and Strength they have fall to work againſt me, ſo that there is hot Work within Doors, and without. Indeed I ſometimes get ſome Advantage by bolting the Door, and cloſing the Window Shutters as David did. Pſalm cxix. 37. And Job Chap. xxxi 1. I am learning this Point, but my chief Refuge is, in poſting of a Letter in all haſte to the adorable King and Captain of my Salvation, who never fails to ſend me ſpeedy Succour, even when the Battle is warmeſt. *Oh! wonderous King!*

But, dear * * *, I muſt give over, only let me add, when you ſpeak with his glorious Majeſty, do not forget to intercede for him, who is

Your unworthy, but loving Brother, while, &c.

" Petitions

" Petitions now, and Praiſe may riſe,
" And Saints their Offerings bring;
" The Prieſt with his own Sacrifice,
" Preſents them to the King."

ADIEU.

LETTER XXVI.

My dear and valuable Friend, *March* 20, 1760

MAY Grace, Mercy and Peace, be multiplied unto you from *God*, and *our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; who is the Fountain and Foundation of all our Bleſſings. Oh! how highly favoured are *we*! God's Image ſtamped on Duſt! When loſt, redeemed by the Blood of the Son of God, and now ſupported by his glorious Love! O that we may never live beneath our Privileges!

" Raiſe our groveling Spirits up,
" To our Calling's glorious Hope."

My Soul lieth in the Duſt before him, in whoſe Sight Angels vail their Faces. I prove that the Lord delights in thoſe who are of an humble Spirit. I ſink into Nothing in my own Eſteem, more and more, as I draw nearer to God, and become more like him. My dear Friend help me by your Prayers. I ſincerely thank you, and God my Saviour, for the Uſe you have already been of to me: My God ſhall reward you ſeven-fold for all your Kindneſs to me.

Oh! that *Death* may be written in large Characters on every Creature, yea on all created Good in this World, that we may *even now* anticipate the Happineſs of the next, and partake of the Bliſs of

thoſe

thoſe who are before the Throne of God, and ſerve him Day and Night.

I have found a daily Croſs ſince I came unto this Place, from a Quarter I leaſt expected it, but it has been a greater Bleſſing to me, than I can conceive the *Want* of it could have been: So that I have had true Reſt, and more of the loving powerful Preſence of God, than for ſome Time before. O let us praiſe the Lord with every Breath!

I doubt not but my dear Friend has had much Communion with Jeſus, ſince we parted. Is he not fairer than all the Children of Men? Yes: *He is altogether lovely!*

My Deſire and Prayer to God for you is, that you may ſink deeper into him, and ſtill be leſs in your own Eſteem: And be filled with the trueſt Tenderneſs and Long-ſuffering to all the Children of God, yea all the Children of Men. Our Meeting again, I hope will be to our Advantage; till then may the God of Peace be with you.

I am your affectionate, &c.

LETTER XXVII.

My dear Friend, *May 2d*, 1760.

I Heartily thank you for your profitable Letter, it has been of ſingular Uſe, and great Comfort to my Soul. I ſee the more I have of the Preſence of God, and the more I deſire to have: The more I ſee of his Goodneſs, and leſs I think of my own, which humbles me to the Duſt before him, while I am loſt in Wonder, filled with Love, and Tears o

Joy.

Joy. If Buſineſs calls me in the midſt of this ſweet and bleſſed Communion with my dear Saviour, which is often the Caſe, I leave you to judge how diſagreeable Company is at ſuch a Time, yet even then I feel my Will intirely reſigned to that which is my Duty; I caſt all my Care on him, who careth for me, and I find him All-ſufficient, a preſent Help in Time of Need.

I have not always the ſame *Degree* of Joy, for at ſometimes I feel all my Soul carried unto, and centured in God, that I am wrapt up in his Embrace; but at other Times I hang a dependant Creature upon him, and ſay in myſelf, it is a thouſand Times more than I deſerve, that I can now call God my Father and my Love.

When News came that you was dead, I thought what can I want for him which he now hath not, or for myſelf, but that I may be like him. I could not indeed think it a Crime to drop an indebted Tear for one God had made ſo uſeful to my Soul.

But bleſſed be God you are ſpared a little longer: And aſk the unworthieſt of human Creatures: "Tell me, when ſaw you him whom my "Soul loveth." He is preſent with me, my dear Friend, whom *your Soul loveth*. I ſhould think myſelf the moſt miſerable Wretch living, even in the midſt of the greateſt Confluence of worldly Bleſſings, if he was abſent for *one Hour*.

"O! 'tis Hell from thee to part,
"Preſs me cloſer to thy Heart!

And I thank the God of my Life and Salvation, I can anſwer to your other Enquiry with Satisfaction,

"Do

" Do you grow in Grace?" I believe I do. But O Lord, *give me, give me* to *grow* more abundantly like unto thy *bleſſed Self.*

Pray for me, and if I may not ſee you, write to me as *often* and as *plain* as you can. God bleſs you. Farewell.

I am &c.

LETTER XXVIII.

My dear Brother, *Feb.* 9, 1760.

WHOM, for CHRIST's Sake, I love, and eſteem, wiſhing Grace, Mercy and Peace, may attend you all your Days. I have often thought of you ſince I had the Happineſs to ſee you; and I hope you have not forgot poor *me*, who am leſs than the leaſt of all Saints. You knew when I was with you, my Weakneſs, and the many Trials I laboured under. 'Tis true, I have changed my *Place*, but *I* have not changed my *Company*. I ſtill carry my wicked Heart about with me, which I find to be *deceitful* above expreſſion, and deſperately wicked beyond Compariſon: The Devil, and it, are cauſing me continual Trouble: I groan, being burdened. Oh! that JESUS would ſoon end this War within. Never did chaſed Hart pant more eagerly for the cooling Stream, than my weary Soul for the perfect Liberty of the Children of GOD. *Hope deferred, makes the Heart ſick.* Oh! what a happy Moment would that be, when I ſhould be able to ſay, *I live no longer, but* CHRIST *liveth in me*, the *ſole* Monarch of my pure, and ſimple Heart! As for all other Things, I do indeed count them but Dung

and

and Droſs, ſo I may win CHRIST, and the Prize of *perfect* Holineſs. I have too much ſought Water in broken Ciſterns, I *now* deſire to go to the Fountain. I count Money, and Honours, and Pleaſures poor, little, empty, inſignificant Things: A Dram of Grace is worth a thouſand Worlds. Oh! give me GRACE, I aſk no more.

I hope my Friend is going on towards *Perfection*, forgetting the Things behind, and the Things preſent, which would alienate his Mind from GOD, and ſtop the intercourſe between the lovely JESUS, and his Soul.

I was exceeding glad to hear the comfortable Account you gave Mr. ***, of the Succeſs of the Goſpel in that part of the Vineyard where you are labouring. The good LORD increaſe it more and more.

I am entered into another Man's Labours in this Place, he hath prepared the Way before me. The REDEEMER is carrying on a glorious Work in this City: You would be pleaſed to ſee what a large Congregation we have; on Sunday Evenings it is computed there are four Thouſand Hearers, and the Society increaſes weekly, and I hope theſe are but the Beginnings of good Days.

I beg you would pray for us, that in all Things we may approve ourſelves the Miniſters of Chriſt, and Stewards of the Myſteries of GOD. I kindly thank you for the laſt Advice you gave me, when you left me in *London*, and I thank GOD he hath preſerved me from falling into the Temptation. I hope you will not fail to pray for me in particular; I am ſure I do love and pray for you, who am *Your affectionate Brother, &c.*

LET-

LETTER XXIX.

My dear Chriſtian Friend.

I Heartily thank my GOD for putting it into your Mind to pray for ſo unworthy a Creature as I am; I doubt not but He hath anſwered your Prayers in my behalf, and will give me what is beſt for my eternal Welfare. He has enabled me to leave the whole of my Affairs unto him, whether Health or Sickneſs, Plenty or Poverty, Eaſe or Pain, Life or Death, I receive them all alike; I have not any Care about theſe:

"So that I, in my LORD may live and die."

You have given me great Satisfaction with regard to our LORD's Words: *He that drinketh of the Water which I ſhall give him, ſhall thirſt no more.* "*Shall thirſt no more:* Not for any of the periſha-"ble Things of Time and Senſe, but ſhall ever "thirſt for more of theſame bleſſed Water of "Life." I believe, depending upon the faithful Word of GOD, that I ſhall never inordinately thirſt any more, but for what is to be found in him whom my Soul loveth. I often cry, *Nothing ſhall ever ſeperate me from the Love of* GOD *which is in* CHRIST JESUS. Night and Day it ſhall be all my Care, to guard his heavenly Treaſure, and ſacred Preſence in my Heart.

I now find the Truth, of the Apoſtle's Words by bleſſed Experience: *Godlineſs is profitable unto all Things, having Promiſe of the Life that now is, and of that which is to come.* The Difficulties of my preſent Station, are rendered eaſy thereby. I only take my Lord to pleaſe, and this teaches me my

Duty

Duty to *Maſters* and *Servants*, to *Company* and *Children*, which in all are a great Number. It hath pleaſed God greatly to bleſs whatever you have ſaid unto me, either by Word, or Letter. The Motto you recomended unto me, *whatſoever thy Hand findeth to do, do it with all thy Might*, occurs to my Mind upon all Occaſions. I am enabled to diſpatch Buſineſs, with fewer Worsd, in leſs Time, and with more eaſe than ever in my Life. Oh! help me to praiſe God for his unſpeakable Favours. Buſineſs now calls me. God bleſs you:

FAREWELL.

LETTER XXX.

My dear Friend, *May 3d*, 1760.

THE Queſtions you deſire me to reſolve, are undoubtedly reſpecting one of the moſt important Affairs of human Life; and therefore deſerve a ſolid Conſideration, and an ingenuous Anſwer.

1ſt. "Is it *lawful* for a *Believer* to *marry* with an *Unbeliever*?

2d. "Is it *expedient* for a Believer to marry "with one of a different *Opinion* in Religion, and "who worſhips God in a different *Place* and *Mode* "tho' a Child of God?"

With regard to the firſt: Let it be carefully obſerved that nothing can be lawful which God has directly or indirectly forbidden: Now I cannot conceive but he hath forbidden *this*: *Be not unequally yoked together with Unbelievers*, therefore it is *unlawful*. The firſt Propoſition will be granted

granted. If it is ſaid with reſpect to the ſecond, that the Apoſtle only forbids *Chriſtians* to marry with *Heathens*, and his Words affect not the preſent Caſe. It may be anſwered they do affect the preſnet Caſe notwiſtanding: For there can be no real, and ſpecific Difference between an unconverted Perſon, tho' baptized in the Name of Chriſt; and an Heathen. The Difference can only be in the Name, and external Things, which change not their Nature and Diſpoſition, nor their real Character with God, who judgeth not according to Appearance, but according to the Heart. Is an *Heathen* an Enemy to God by wicked Works? So is an an unconverted *Chriſtian*. Is an *Heathen* an Idolator? So is an unbelieving *Chriſtian*. He is either covetous, or a Lover of Pleaſure, both which are Idolatry. The *Heathen*, and the merely nominal *Chriſtian*, act both from the ſame Principles, and with the ſame Intentions. Whereas there is a real and ſpecific Difference between a Child of God, and a Child of Satan: The former is a Partaker of the divine Nature. 2 Peter i. 4. Has the Holy Ghoſt abiding within him. John xiv. 17. 1 Cor. ii. 12. And Rom. viii. 16. His Body is a Temple of the Holy Ghoſt, and God dwelleth and walketh in him. 2 Cor. vi 16. But an unconverted Perſon with all the Refinements of *Birth*, *Education*, and the *Form of Godlineſs*, is at Enmity with God, being only born after the *Fleſh*, for *the carnal Mind is Enmity againſt God*. Rom. viii. 7. The Devil worketh and reigneth in his Heart. Luke 11. 24. Yea himſelf lyeth in the

ſame

ſame) without GOD in the World, Eph. 2. 12. Now nothing can be more certain, than that all are *unlawfully* married, whom GOD does not join together: And can we think that GOD will join a *Partaker* of his Nature, unto one poſſeſſed of the Devil, or that Chriſt will unite one of the *Members* of his myſtical Body, unto a *Limb* of Satan? Can any Thing be more unlikely, or more contrary to the Nature and Wiſdom of GOD.

Beſides, let us conſider the evils which have followed ſuch unequal Marriages, both in the antient and modern Times, and we may eaſily read the unlawfulneſs of them in the Puniſhments entailed upon them. In the old World: *The Sons of God:* i. e. the Poſterity of Righteous Seth; ſaw *the Daughters of Men:* i. e. the Deſcendants of wicked CAIN, that they were *fair*, *not* that they were *pious*, and *they took themſelves Wives which they choſe*, not which GOD *choſe* for them: And what was the Conſequence? By and by, we read of an univerſal Defection from GOD, and Godlineſs. Gen. vi. 5. *Then God ſaw the Wickedneſs of Man was great in the Earth, and all the Imaginations of the Thoughts of his Heart were only evil*, and that *continually*. And what was the End and Iſſue of all? An univerſal Corruption, brought on an epidemical Deſolation: GOD determines to deſtroy thoſe who would not mortify the Luſts of the Fleſh, but joined themſelves with the Daughters of Belial. *Therefore the Lord ſaid, I will deſtroy from the Earth the Men which I have created.*

Tho' Sampſon's Wife, who was a Daughter of the uncircumciſed, pleaſed him hugely for a time,

yet his Affections were ſoon alienated from her, and what was the End thereof I need not inform you. Judg. xix. Moſes himſelf, ſcarcely eſcaped being ſlain of the Lord, for hearkening unto his Zipporah, and deferring the Ordinance of Circumciſion. Exod. iv. 24. And you find Solomon, of a *wiſe King*, become an *apiſh Dotard*, and of a *pious Worſhiper*, becomes *a groſs Idolater*, all by means of *ſtrange Wives*. 1 King. xi. 4, 5.

When the old Serpent is in the Heart of a Wife who lyeth in your Boſom, he has a fair Opportunity of winding himſelf into yours alſo. Faithful Abraham had ſuch a Senſe of this Matter, that he could not die, and go to Paradice contentedly, until he made his Steward take an Oath in the Name of the GOD of the whole Earth, that he would not take a Wife for his Son Iſaac, of the Canaanites where he dwelt, but from among his own Kindred. Gen. xxiv. 3, 4.

How very few Inſtances have we among ourſelves in the preſent Day, of the believing Huſband or Wife, converting the contrary Party; but how many melancholy Examples have we, of the unbelieving Huſband or Wife, re-converting the other Party to the World and the Devil? And no wonder, that the Serpent and Eve twiſted together, ſhould be a Cord ſtrong enough, to draw any of Adam's Poſterity to eat of the forbidden Fruit, as it did their Father: Neither is it to be wondered at, that GOD ſhould withhold his Bleſſings from Matches of Satan's making.

I therefore conclude upon the whole, that it is far from being lawful for a *Believer* to marry with

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an *Unbeliever*; and therefore to be avoided by all who would eſcape the Diſpleaſure of GOD, and would have his Bleſſing upon them in that ſacred State.

The other Queſtion ſhall be conſidered, but not having Leiſure at preſent, I muſt exerciſe your Patience till the next Poſt.

I remain your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

My dear Friend, *May 6th*, 1760.

I SUPPOSE by this Time you have had the Opportunity of peruſing my laſt; but I am at an uncertainty what your Sentiments are concerning it, yet nevertheleſs according to my Promiſe, I will give you my Thoughts on your ſecond Enquiry.

" Is it expedient for a Believer to marry with " one of another Opinion? &c."

I think, my dear Friend, *not in any wiſe:* 'Tis granted it is lawful, but it will be found to be highly *inexpedient* in theſe particulars.

1ſt. The greateſt Part of that ſpiritual Strength and Comfort, which ſhould, and may be given and received between a Chriſtian Man and his Wife, will be loſt, and a Foundation laid for perpetual Jarrs and Diſputes.

Altho' there may be difference of Opinion in a Nation without Breach of Charity, yet there ſcarcely can be difference of Opinion between Man and Wife, without Alienation of Affection. And the more ſincere either, or both Parties are,

and the more earneſt they will be to have their own Sentiments regarded. Tho' the Work of God is, for the Subſtance of it, the ſame in the Minds of all Men, yet it is not eaſy to ſay, what a Difference, different Opinions may make in many Circumſtances of it. They who are brought unto God by one Syſtem of Doctrine, have a vien of Enjoyments, a turn of Experience, and a Method of ſpeaking peculiar to themſelves; which does not ſo *exactly* agree with any other. And what an inconceivable Loſs muſt it be, if but *ſome Part* of that Help which they might give to each other, is wanting. Nothing elſe can poſſibly make up their Loſs. If they are loving, good-natur'd, and generous People, they may poſſibly live together without outragious Quarrels; yet alas, this is but a little Matter toward that good they ſhould do to one another, in the great Affair of their Salvation!

If you was to form an Idea of the happieſt Couple in the World, you would conceive them to be of *one Heart*, and of *one Way* in all Things, if poſſible, but eſpecially in the Matter of *Religion*. A Want of this, would give a Notion of their Want of Happineſs in each other, and you could not avoid thinking, but as far as they were wanting in *Agreement*, in their *Opinion*, they would be wanting in their *Felicity*.

2d. Another Thing which makes it *inexpedient*, is an Hindrance in their private Devotion. Mutual Prayer is moſt prevalent. *If two* (ſays our Saviour) *of you, ſhall agree on Earth, as touching any Thing they ſhall aſk, it ſhall be done for them of my Father*

Father, which is in Heaven. Matt. xviii. 19. But how much of the Energy, and Profit of Prayer will be loſt, when *perhaps*, they think it right *only* to pray with a Book, and the other judges it quite preferable to pray as the Spirit ſhall aſſiſt, and give him Utterance. How uncomfortable is this Diſagreement: How many ſweet and excellent Bleſſings are loſt, for want of mutual Prayer. It is a ſorry Condition for a Woman, in a married State, to receive little, or no Benefit from her Husband's Prayers in private: Would not every Woman which makes Religion her Buſineſs and Happineſs, think it the greateſt Loſs ſhe could ſuſtain? And the Diſadvantage would be equally great on the Man's Part.

3d. Again; the ſame Inconveniencies would alſo occur in *Family* as in *ſecret Prayer.* There would be continual Hinderances to the Performance of that Duty, without which every Family muſt live miſerably, and expoſed to the Diſpleaſure of God. *Pour out thy Fury upon the Heathen, and upon the Families, which call not upon thy name.*

4th. Let it alſo be obſerved, how *uncomfortable* and *unſeemingly* it would be in *public Worſhip*, for thoſe whom God hath made *one Fleſh*, and who live as ſuch on the Week Day, to part on the Sunday: And as ſoon, it may be, as they go out at their own Door, to their public Devotion, turn their backs and go different Ways, as tho' they were utter Strangers to each other. Who could bear the Thoughts of this? If they love not one ano-

ther they are moſt *wretchedly miſerable*; if they do, it renders this Seperation more difficult ſtill. But.

5th. What muſt become of the Education of the Children? *This hereby*, will be rendered almoſt impracticable. If they are both of them conſcien-cious in their Profeſſion, they will be loth that their Children ſhould not be educated in the ſame way which they judge to be the beſt in the World, and in which they place, and find their ſupreme Happineſs. How hard will it be for a tender *Mother* to ſee her Children, brought up, before her Eyes, in a Way ſhe diſapproves? And will it not be equally hard for the loving and obedient Wife, to thwart her Husband's Counſels to his Children, and caution them againſt that, unto which he warmly adviſes them? And yet one of theſe ſhe muſt do. She has but this Alternative either to diſoblige her Husband, or offend her Conſcience. It will be equally difficult to the Huſband to ſee his Children trained up in the Way he would not have them to go; and yet he will find it difficult to grieve a *loving* and *tender* Wife. So that between the two, the Children will remain uneducated, or taught in their *tender Age*, to halt between two Opinions, and in their advanced Years have no Religion at all. Theſe Things are of great Weight with me, and I believe will be with every one who thinks of them. They will I hope ever deter me from taking ſo indirect and dangerous a Step. And I pray God they may have the ſame Weight with my dear Friend. I heartily commend you to the Providence and Direction of Almighty God.

While I remain your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER XXXII.

My dear Friend, *June 14th*, 1760

I Received your very agreeable Letter; it was *Benjamin's* Meſs *indeed*, and ſo full it was running over when it came to Hand; yet I believe there was not any loſt.

The laſt, and the former Favours of which you ſpeak, and for which you ſo heartily thank GOD, and me, are, in my Eſteem few and inſignificant, the reaſon of this is, I look at them in *Love*, which never thinks it does enough, and you look at them in *Gratitude*, which never thinks it make ſufficient Returns: Both are bleſſed Diſpoſitions.

That, my dear Friend, is the happieſt Way of deceiving others which you mention; to be better in *reality*, than in *Appearance*.

I never fear you being habitually unkind, or ungrateful, if it is at all ſo, it will be *only* when you are more ſo to yourſelf, by groundleſs Reflection, than to any others.

You deſire me to help you all I can. The Love I have for your Soul, together with my own Intereſt in doing Good, are Motives ſufficient to induce me thereunto, without my dear Friends Solicitations. Next to my own Growth in Grace, and perſonally giving Glory to God, nothing is more deſired by me. Nor would any Thing beſides the Enjoyment of GOD, give me greater Happineſs, than to be capable of doing it.

"You think the being grieved, when thoſe "you love, behave unkindly to you, argues a "Defect in your Holineſs." If we would ſee this

in a clear Light, we muſt, 1ſt. Enquire into the Nature of the Unkindneſs, 2d. Into the Nature, and Degree of your Grief, before we can ſay whether it argues a Want *in*, or is a Branch *of* Holineſs.

If the Unkindneſs of your Friend, diſhonours GOD, brings a ſcandel upon *Religion*, and Guilt upon his own Conſcience; then you have the dear Redeemer for the Pattern of your *Grief*. *He looked round about on them with Anger, being grieved for the Hardneſs of their Hearts.* Mark 3, 5. But if it only effects your own private Character or Intereſt, or eſpecially your Humour and Inclination; to be grieved to a Degree of Unhappineſs, cannot but argue want of Reſignation to the Will of GOD. For ſuch an Unkindneſs may be permitted by GOD Almighty for ſome good Purpoſe to you, and ſhould not only be ſubmitted unto, but thankfully choſen. 2d, If the Nature and Degree of your Grief is only ſuch as ariſes from that Sympathy you have with your Friend, and which you would have had upon the Conſideration of ſo ungenerous an Action done by him to any other, you could not be without this Grief, but you muſt be without an Hatred to Sin, and affection to the Sinner, which will not conſiſt with *Holineſs*.

But if it *greatly* wounds your *Quiet*, diſturbs your *Peace* and hinders your *Enjoyment* of GOD; it argues too great an Attachment unto, and, it may be, Dependance upon your Friend: Which cannot be without the Soul, leſs, or more being drawn from its Fixedneſs, and full Complacency

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in God; and inclining more unto other Spirits than it ſhould. In this Caſe there is great Need of Mortification to the refined Pleaſure of particular Friendſhips, and to *know no Man after the Fleſh*, that the Soul may more cloſely adhere to Chriſt Jeſus, its true and proper Centre.

Tho' you have been, without Reaſon, kept from the Benefit of aſſembling with your Brethren in that particular Way you mention, yet if you are hereafter permitted, I would not have you refuſe to go. For 1ſt, It would have too great an Appearance of Captiouſneſs, which you ſhould be entirely free from: 2d, It would be in effect ſlighting an excellent Means of improving in Holineſs: And 3d, It would look like Reſentment.

The beſt Way of making the Calumnies, and Aſperſions, *falſely* caſt upon you, diſregarded by others, and profitable to yourſelf, is to offer them up to God in a Sacrifice of pure Thankfulneſs, that you are accounted worthy to ſuffer any Thing for his Sake: And by letting all your Obſervers ſee, by the whole Tenor of your Converſation, that there muſt be a ſtrange Force committed upon your pure Mind, before you could be guilty of the Things aſcribed unto you. When this is the Caſe, hard Words will not *break* your *Head*, but *gladen* your *Heart*: And that Dirt maliciouſly thrown at your Character, will return upon thoſe who caſt it; while it will make your Name more ſweet in the Ears of all who *know* you *better*, and *love* you more *juſtly*; and will alſo brighten your Crown in the Realms of Immortal *Glory*.

You ſee how I have unawares forgot myſelf; and almoſt conſumed my Paper, before I have ſaid one Word about my own Soul.

I have lately had a great deal of Pain in my Head, which has brought me very low in my Spirits, and greatly diminiſhed my Stock of Strength: But I do not urge this by Way of Complaint, nor yet as an Apology for any Def[illegible] in me. No: I thank the dear Jeſus for all the Pain I have felt; I dare ſay, if I had wanted any Part of it, it would have been a Loſs to me. I know aſſuredly that *all Things work together for my Good*; *even* by this Token, I Love God.

I believe I have grown in Grace lately, but not in the ſame Reſpects, I did ſome Time ſince: Not in Joy and Tranſports; but in *Humility*, *Patience*, and *Reſignation*: Theſe Graces I have had Occaſion, in a peculiar manner to exerciſe, which, tho' they do not ſo immediately uſher in the Harveſt of Joyous Extacies, yet they *will*, they already *do* return with ſome Degree of Joy, and bring their Sheaves of Spiritual Advantage with them.

This is my laſt, beſt, and moſt determinate Reſolution, to *die*, through the Grace of Chriſt ſtrengthening me, rather than intentionally grieve His Holy Spirit. My Bed, and the Furniture of my Room, the Stones in the Wall, and the Beams in the Timber of my Habitation; yea the inviſible Spirits of every Order, which attend my Mid-night Hours and my Noon-day Walks, are, all Witneſſes of the Reſolution I have made, and

repeated

repeated in their Preſence: And I do not only confirm them with the *Tears* which *now* flow from my Eyes, but I would, if it was expedient, ſign them with the *Blood* which runs in my Veins. My GOD knows I fear nothing, but offending Him, nor deſire any Thing but to be *like unto*, and *with* Him. My dear Friend, pray for me. I know no one like minded, who naturally cares for my Soul. I thank GOD for the *Care* you have expreſſed for it. It is not an *hard* Taſk to return the Favour. I do not fail to pray for you: Who am

Your affectionate Brother and Friend, &c.

LETTER XXXIII.

My very dear Friend, *May* 30, 1760.

I Received your very welcome and expected Letter, at one o'Clock To-day. I am glad you had a good Journey, and more eſpecially that you enjoyed much of the loving, powerful preſence of CHRIST, and got to your Journey's End with a good Conſcience. For theſe, as for all other Bleſſings, I have received ſince we parted, do I unfeignedly praiſe my GOD.

To give you an Account of all my Proceedings in each Day ſince that Time, would fill up my Paper, without being much to the purpoſe: Only I may obſerve, I met with a kind Reception from my Relations and Neighbours, and they heard me preach with gladneſs. The good LORD give ſucceſs to his own Word. I alſo ſpent two Nights at O——. The dear Lovers of JESUS there have been greatly tried by a new Notion entertained

by ſome among them, and from other Quarters, but they *ſtand faſt in the Liberty wherewith* CHRIST *hath made them free*, and I truſt *ever* will.

We had a good Love-Feaſt at L—— on *Monday*, and a much better at R—— on *Tueſday*; one has received a *clean Heart* even at this Place, and a Backſlider was reſtored unto the Favour of GOD the ſame Day; and mingled Tears of Penitence, and Joy, did *indeed* flow plentifully from the Eyes of *many*.

You have gone from us juſt before the Harveſt: J. M—, A. S—, and M. J—, have received an extraordinary Bleſſing lately, which they believe to be a NEW HEART. *The* LORD JEHOVAH *reigneth!*

I know not how to expreſs my Sentiments of you, and my concern for you, better than in the Words of Divine Inſpiration. PHIL. I. 3--11. *I thank my GOD upon every Remembrance of you, Always in every Prayer of mine for you, making Requeſt with Joy; For your Fellowſhip in the Goſpel, from the firſt Day until now; Being confident of this very Thing, that he who hath begun a good Work in you, will perform it unto the Day of* JESUS CHRIST. *For GOD is my record, how greatly I long for you in the Bowels of* JESUS CHRIST. *And this I pray, that your* LOVE *may abound yet more and more in Knowledge, and in all Judgment. That you may approve Things excellent; that you may be ſincere, and without Offence till the Day of* CHRIST. *Being filled with the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, which are by* JESUS CHRIST, *unto the Glory and Praiſe of GOD.*

I come

I come now to ſay ſomething more particularly reſpecting my own SOUL, and its ſituation. I dare not ſay but my Soul has always been fixed in GOD, as in its true Centre and Reſt: I have been always joyful, but not always in the ſame degree. At ſome Times the Love of GOD has been ſhed abroad in my Heart in an uncommon Meaſure, which opened in my Soul a moſt ineffable Sweetneſs: And penetrated my inmoſt ſubſtance with lively Senſations of Divine Pleaſure. I have felt the moſt ſenſible Union with CHRIST, and Manifeſtations of the Divine Preſence; the Effects of which are highly delightful. This I pray to GOD from the inmoſt Receſſes of my Heart, and all my Powers ſay, Amen; let my right Hand forget its cunning, my Heart to beat, and all my Powers fail to perform their Functions, rather than that I ſhould live to *Sin* againſt my dear SAVIOUR, or, in the leaſt *knowingly* grieve his Spirit. I deſire nothing *beſides* him: I know, *I feel* he is able to make me compleatly, and eternally holy and happy. He gives me Power to rejoice in Pain and Suffering of every kind, in conſideration of their being according to his Will, and ſhall work together for my Good. I now believe, I ſhall rejoice for ever in the Kingdom of my FATHER.

But Oh! what manner of *Love* is *this*, which the Father hath beſtowed upon *me*, that *I*, *unworthy I*, *inſignificant I*, ſhould be *called*, ſhould be *made*, A CHILD OF GOD! And bleſt with a Participation of the Divine Nature! Be aſtoniſhed,

ed, O Heavens, at this! Sink down, my Soul, into the loweſt Proſtration and Humility!

" Loſt in Wonder, riſe no more,
" Fall and ſilently adore."

Oh! my dear Friend, praiſe the Lovely JESUS with every Breath, love him with every Power of your Mind, and ſerve him with every Moment of your Time, and Member of your Body.

When at any Time you are diſpleaſed with yourſelf, be not diſpleaſed on that Account, or even *appear* to be *ſo* with your Friends. Why ſhould they feel the Effects of the Diſpleaſure you ſhould *only* have to yourſelf? This is an unreaſonable Weakneſs; it is enough that your Friends ſympathize with you, and help you by their Prayers. Conſider, and practice this Point well, and it will render you *yet* more engaging and uſeful. Many in this Place think of you, with Thankfulneſs: Do not forget to pray for them, let unworthy *me* have an Intereſt alſo in your Prayers, and the good LORD bleſs you now, and for ever. Adieu.

I am your's, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

A LETTER from B. LAURENCE, To the Reverend ——.

IN a Converſation ſome Days ſince with a Perſon of Piety, he told me the divine Life was a Life of Grace, which begins with ſervile Fear, which is increaſed by Hope of Eternal Life, and which is conſumated by pure Love. That each

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of theſe States had its different Stages, by which one arrives at laſt at that bleſſed Experiance.

I have not followed all theſe Methods: On the contrary, I found they diſcouraged me. This was the Reaſon why at my firſt Entrance into Religion, I took a Reſolution to give myſelf up to GOD, and for the Love of him to renounce all beſides.

For the firſt Years I commonly employed myſelf, during the Time ſet apart for Devotion, with the Thoughts of Death, of Judgment, Hell, Heaven, and my Sins. Thus I continued ſome Years; applying my Mind carefully the reſt of the Day, and even in the midſt of Buſineſs, to the preſence of GOD, whom I conſidered as always with me, often as in me.

Such was my Beginning: And yet I muſt tell you, that for the firſt ten Years I ſuffered much: The Apprehenſions that I was not devoted to God as I wiſh'd to be, my paſt Sins always preſent to my Mind, and the great unmerited Favours which GOD did me, were the Matter and Source of my Sufferings. During this Time I fell often, and roſe again preſently. It ſeem'd to me that the Creatures, Reaſon, and GOD himſelf, were againſt me; and Faith alone for me. I was troubled ſometimes with Thoughts, that to believe I had received ſuch Favours was Preſumption, which pretended to be at once where others arrive with difficulty; at other Times, that it was a wilful Deluſion, and that there was no Salvation for me.

When I thought of nothing but to end my Days in theſe Troubles, which did not all di-

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miniſh the Faith I had in God, I found myſelf changed all at once; and my Soul, which till that Time was in Trouble, felt a profound inward Peace, as if ſhe were fixed in her Centre and Place of reſt.

Ever ſince that Time I walk before God ſimply, in Faith, with Humility and Love; I apply myſelf diligently to do nothing, ſay nothing, and think nothing which may diſpleaſe him.

As for what paſſes within me at preſent, I cannot expreſs it. I have no Pain or Difficulty about my State, becauſe I have no Will but that of God, which I endeavour to accompliſh in all Things, and to which I am ſo reſigned, that I would not take up a Straw from the Ground againſt his Order, or from any other Motive, but purely that of Love to him.

I have quitted all Forms of Devotion and ſet Prayer, but thoſe to which my State obliges me, and I make it my Buſineſs only to perſevere in his holy Preſence, wherein I keep myſelf by a ſimple Attention, and a generous loving regard to God, which I may call an actual Preſence of God; or to ſpeak better, an habitual, ſilent, and ſecret Converſation with God, which often cauſes Joys and Raptures inwardly, and ſometimes alſo outwardly, ſo great, that I am forced to uſe means to prevent their Appearance to others.

In ſhort, I am aſſured beyond all doubt, that my Soul hath walked with God above theſe thirty Years. I paſs over many Things, that I may not be tedious to you: Yet I think it proper to inform you, after what manner I conſider myſelf before God, whom I behold as my King.

I conſider myſelf as the moſt wretched of Men, full of Sores and Corruptions, and who has committed all ſorts of Crimes againſt him: Touch'd with a ſenſible regret, I confeſs to him all my Wickedneſs, I aſk his Forgiveneſs, I abandon myſelf in his Hands, that he may do what he pleaſes with me. He is full of Mercy and Goodneſs, very far from chaſtiſing me, embraces me with Love, makes me eat at his Table, ſerves me with his own Hands, gives me the Key of his Treaſures; he converſes and delights himſelf with me inceſſantly in a thouſand and a thouſand Ways, and treats me in all reſpects as his Favourite. It is thus I conſider myſelf from Time to Time in his holy Preſence.

My moſt uſeful Method is this ſimple Attention, and ſuch a paſſionate regard to God; to whom I find myſelf often attached with greater Sweetneſs and Delight than that of an Infant at the Mother's Breaſt. So that if I dare uſe the Expreſſion, I ſhould chuſe to call this State the Breaſts of God, from the inexpreſſible Sweetneſs I taſte and experience there.

If ſometimes my Thoughts wander from it by Neceſſity or Infirmity, I am preſently recalled by inward Motions, ſo charming and delicious, that I am aſhamed to mention them. I deſire your Reverence to reflect rather upon my Wretchedneſs, of which you are fully informed, than upon the great Favours God does me, all unworthy and ungrateful as I am.

As for my ſet Hours of Prayer, they are only a Continuation of the ſame Excerciſe; ſometimes

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I conſider myſelf there as a Stone before a Carver, whereof he is to make a Statue; preſenting myſelf thus before GOD, I deſire him to make his perfect Image in my Soul, and render me entirely like himſelf.

At other Times when I apply myſelf to Prayer, I feel all my Spirit, all my Soul, lift itſelf up without any Care or Effort of mine: And it continues as it were ſuſpended, and firmly fixed in GOD, as in it's Centre and Place of reſt.

I cannot bear that this ſhould be called Deluſion, becauſe the Soul which thus enjoys GOD, deſires herein nothing but him. If this be Deluſion in me, it belongs to him to remedy it. Let him do what he pleaſes with me: I deſire only him, and to be wholly devoted to him. You will *however*, oblige me in ſending me your Opinion, to which I always pay a great Deference, for I have a ſincere eſteem for your Reverence, and am in our LORD,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXXV.

A *LETTER to the Duke of* BURGUNDY: From M. De FENELON, *Archbiſhop of Cambray.* OF THE LOVE OF GOD.

I Believe, my Lord, the true Way of loving Mankind, is to love them in GOD, and for his Sake. Men know not what it is to Love GOD, and therefore they dread him, and keep at a diſtance from him. This ſlaviſh Fear hinders them from underſtanding the ſweet Familiarity of Children

Children in the Boſom of the tendereſt of Fathers. They look upon him only as an all-powerful and rigorous Taſk-maſter: They are always under Conſtraint with him. Every Thing they do is forced. It is with Reluctance they do any Good, that they may eſcape Puniſhment. They would do Evil if they durſt, and could hope for Impunity. The Love of God appears unto them a burthenſome Debt. They endeavour to elude it by Formalities and external Worſhip; ſtill inclining to ſubſtitute theſe in the Place of ſincere and effectual Love. They uſe Artifices with God himſelf, to give him as little as poſſibly they can Oh my God! if Men knew what it is to love Thee, they would ſeek no other Life, no other Joy, but thy Love.

This Love requires nothing of us, but to do for the Sake of God, what Reaſon itſelf ſhould incline us to do. We are not deſired to add to the Number of the good Works which we have already learned to practice: All that is incumbent upon us, is to do the ſame Things from a Principle of Love to God, that honeſt Men of a regular Life do from principles of Honour, and Regard to themſelves. Nothing is to be laid aſide but what is wrong, which we ought to lay aſide, tho' we had no other Principle but right Reaſon. As for the reſt, let us leave all Matters in that Order which God has eſtabliſhed in the World. Let us do the ſame honourable and virtuous Things as formerly, but let us do them for his Sake who made us, and to whom we owe all.

This Love of God does not require of all Chriſtians

Chriſtians the Auſterities of the antient Hermits, nor their profound Solitude: Neither does it in ordinary Caſes, demand ſhining, heroick Deeds; nor renouncing lawful Poſſeſſions, nor the abandoning the Advantages of any Condition of Life. It would only have us juſt, ſober, and moderate in the proper uſe of all Things. It would only not have us make them our God, and our Happineſs; but to uſe them according to his Deſigns, and ſo as they may help us to raiſe our Affections towards him.

This Love does not multiply our Croſſes. It finds all Conditions of Life already ſown with all Kinds of them. They ariſe from the Infirmities of our Bodies, and the Paſſions of our Souls; from our own Imperfections, and thoſe of other Men, with whom we live. The Love of God cauſes none of theſe Pains: On the contrary, it ſweetens all our Sufferings. It likewiſe leſſens them by moderating our ardent Paſſions, and too great Senſibility, the Source of all our real Ills. Were the Love of God ſo perfect in us, as to draw off our Affections from whatever we fear to loſe, or hope to gain, it would finiſh our Griefs at once, and fill us with a bleſſed Tranquility. Why then ſo afraid of this Love, which is the Cauſe of none of our Afflictions, is able to mitigate all of them, and to bring along with it into our Hearts all Kinds of Happineſs? Men are much their own Enemies to reſiſt this Love, and to be afraid of it.

The Precept of LOVE is ſo far from being an additional *Burden* to the reſt, that it renders them

all

all *light* and *eaſy*. What one does thro' Fear without Love, is always tedious, hard, painful, and burthenſome. What one does through Love, becomes by this Means agreeable, how croſs ſoever it be to ſenſe. The Deſire of pleaſing that God whom we love, makes us, that if we ſuffer, we chuſe to ſuffer; and the ſuffering which one chuſes, is no longer a ſuffering.

This Love unſettles and changes no Part of that Order which God has eſtabliſhed. It leaves the Great in their Grandeur, and makes them little under the Hand of Him who made them great. It leaves the Low in the Duſt, and makes them ſatisfied to be nothing but in Him. This Contentment in the loweſt Place has no Meanneſs in it; it makes true Greatneſs.

This Love regulates and animates all the Affections we owe to Creatures. We never love our Neighbour ſo well, as when we love him for the Sake of God, and with the Love of God. When we love Men without regarding God, we love them for our own Sakes: It is ſtill our own Intereſt we ſeek in them; either a more groſs, or a more refined Intereſt. If it is not Money, or Convenience, or Favour; it is the Pleaſure of following our Taſte, of confiding in them, of being mutually beloved by them. *Theſe* Things flatter our Self-love more than any Sum of Money can do: So that we really love ourſelves, when we imagine we love our Friends. But to love another for the Sake of ourſelves, is a very imperfect Way of loving them. It is not Friendſhip; it is Self-love.

It

It may be aſked, What is the right Way then of loving our Friends? It is to love them in their due Order after God: It is to love God in them; to love what he has given them, and to bear, for His Sake, with the Want of what He has thought fit to deny them. When we love our Friends for our own Sakes; Self-love is impatient, delicate, jealous, full of Wants, and void of Merit, always ſuſpicious both of itſelf and its Friends; it grows weary and diſguſted; it ſoon ſees an End of what it entertained the higheſt Thoughts of; it meets with Diſappointments every where; it would always have Perfection, but can never find it; it grows angry; it changes; it can reſt in nothing: But the Love of God, loves its Friends without Views of Self-intereſt, and ſo loves them patiently with all their Faults; it ſeeks no more but what God has given them; it looks to nothing in them but God and his Gifts; it is pleaſed with every Thing, becauſe it loves what God has made; and bears with what he has not made, but permitted, and would have us to permit likewiſe, in Compliance with his Deſigns.

The Love of God never looks for *abſolute* Perfection in the Creatures: It knows this is to be found in God *alone*. It takes great Pleaſure in ſaying to God, *Who is like unto Thee?* It ſays unto every Thing that has Imperfection in it, *Thou art not my GOD*. As it expects *abſolute* Perfection in no Creature, it is never diſappointed. It loves God, and his Gifts, in every Creature, according to the Degree of Goodneſs in every one. It has a leſs love to that which is leſs Good, and

a greater to that which is better: It has ſome love to every Thing, becauſe every Thing has ſome little good in it, which is the Gift of GOD; and the very worſt Men are capable, while they continue in Life, of becoming good, and of receiving the Gifts they are deſtitute of at preſent.

For the Sake of GOD it loves all his Works; all that he hath commanded us to love. It raiſes and heightens its Affections towards ſuch Objects as GOD would have us to prefer to others. In a mortal Father, it looks to it's Father in Heaven, in a Kinſman or Friend, it conſiders the ſtrict Ties founded by Providence. The ſtricter theſe Ties are found in the order of Providence, the Love of God makes them ſo much more ſtrong and intimate. Can one love GOD without loving the Objects he hath commanded us to love? They are his Workmanſhip, he has ordered us to love them? ſhall we not do ſo?

Indeed we ſhould *far* rather die, than love any Thing better than him. He has told us in the Goſpel, *If any Man love Father or Mother more than me, he is not worthy of me.* GOD forbid I ſhould love better than him, what I love only for his Sake. But upon his Account I love with all my Heart, whatever repreſents him unto me, whatever contains his Gifts, whatever he deſigns I ſhould love. This ſolid Principle of Love makes me reſolve never to be wanting in any Duty, either to my Neighbour or my Friends. Their Imperfections cannot ſurprize me, for I expect nothing but Imperfections in every Creature, but what is from my GOD in them. I ſee nothing but

him

him, in whatever has the leaſt Degree of Goodneſs. It is he whom I love in his Creatures, and nothing can alter this LOVE.

This LOVE is not indeed always tender and affecting; but it is real, cordial, faithful, conſtant and active; and I prefer it in the laſt and ſincereſt Choice to every other Love. It has alſo its Tenderneſſes, and its Tranſports. If a Soul was wholly addicted to GOD, it would no longer be ſubject to that Dryneſs, which is owing *only* to the Delicacies and Inequalities of Self-love. As it would love *only* for the Sake of GOD, it would *only* as GOD does, with an admirable LOVE. *For GOD is Love*, as the Apoſtle JOHN ſays. Its Bowels would be an inexhauſtable Source of living Waters, according to the Promiſe. LOVE would, for the Sake of others, *bear all Things*, *endure all Things*, *hope all Things*, it would overcome all Difficulties, it would diffuſe itſelf from the Bottom of the Heart, even upon the external Senſes; it would compaſſionate the Pains of others, and make no Account of its own; it would wait for them, it would communicate and accommodate itſelf unto them; it would humble itſelf to the Low, it would raiſe itſelf up to the Great; it would *weep with them that weep*, *and rejoice with them that rejoice*; it would *become all Things to all Men*, not by a forced appearance and dry affectation, but from the Abundance of the Heart, in which the LOVE of GOD would be a living Source of all the tendereſt, ſtrongeſt, and moſt condeſcending Affections. Nothing is ſo cold, dry, hard, and reſerved, as a

Heart

Heart that loves itſelf in all Things. Nothing is ſo tender, open, lively, ſweet and loving, as a Heart poſſeſſed and animated with DIVINE LOVE.

I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVI.

My very dear Friend,

I CAME to this Place on Saturday laſt, in company with Mr. C. and Mr. M. We had a good Journey. We ſpent our Time in converſing upon the Things appertaining to the Kingdom of God, in the moſt ſolemn and devout manner we could; and at intervals ſung a few Verſes of an Hymn, the whole attended with mental Prayer, by theſe means we came here, not only with a good Conſcience, but forwarded in our ſpiritual Journey. It is a good Thing to have only one Buſineſs on Earth, to make our Calling and Election ſure; and only one End in View, to glorify God.

We had a Love-Feaſt at ** on Sunday Evening, at which there were near eight hundred precious Souls preſent. Our Lord was with us, and it made the Place where we were aſſembled the Houſe of God, and the Gate of Heaven *indeed. Oh! how amiable are thy Tabernacles, thou Lord of Hoſts!*

Moſt that were preſent had reaſon to thank God for the great Conſolation, and one received Remiſſion of Sins! We parted on Monday Morning with Tears, tho' in expectation of ſeeing one another again ſhortly. That was fulfill'd in us. "See how theſe Chriſtians love."

It greatly rejoices my Heart to find a Revival of the Work of God in this Place alſo. Brother M. is very lively, and preaches *Chriſtian Perfection* with all his Might, and ſeveral are ſtirred up to ſeek more Holineſs. On Saturday Evening we had a private Meeting with thoſe who deſire to *go on to Perfection*. Some preſent ſpake largely of receiving the Accompliſhment of the Promiſes of God, by a ſimple Act of Faith; and ſaid *believe*, *believe*, altogether: I ſpoke my Mind freely upon the neceſſity of waiting for the fulfilling of the great and precious Promiſes, in a diligent uſe of all the means of Grace in mortifying the Deeds of the Body, and crucifying the Fleſh with its affections and Luſts: And vigorouſly doing Good to the utmoſt of our Power, and patiently ſuffering evil, at the ſame Time having all our Expectation from Chriſt, and our Faith ſteadily fixed on the Promiſes, I offered this to their conſideration as the moſt Scriptural, and ſafe Way of growing in Grace and arriving at the Meaſure of the Stature of perfect Men in Chriſt.

I find much Comfort and Edification in the Company of your Friend. I thank God for her Example, and Advice. The dear Lord Jeſus bleſs and reward her.

My Soul is at preſent thirſting for more of God: I long for all his Fulneſs: I pray for your abundant Proſperity; I wiſh the Happineſs of al Mankind.

Let your Heart be given every Moment to God alone, and ſave as many Thoughts as poſſible from all other Things, to centre immediately in him.

him. Strive to be little in your own Eyes, and alſo in Appearance. Oh! that we may drink more abundantly into the humble, ſimple, loving Spirit of Chriſt!

I remain yours affectionately, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

Rev. and highly eſteemed Sir, *Aug.* 10, 1741.

GLORY be to God for his great Goodneſs, for ſparing me ſo long, in the outward Profeſſion of Religion without the Power, to let me ſee his great Salvation through your preaching. I attended the Field preaching at firſt, and not from Curioſity; yet Mr ——'s preaching had little or no Effect upon me. I uſed to ſay his Diſcourſes are irregular, yet at the ſame Time I was raviſhed with the Hymn ſung before the Sermon, and often thereby melted into Tears of Love and Joy. But it pleaſed God to come nearer my Heart, and draw me by a Sermon you preached at Kennington from Pſalm xl. 15. I was then convinced I never was in that State: Another from you on the one Thing needful, which I uſed to think I had choſen becauſe I was outwardly religious, had the ſame Effect upon me. I then ſaw clearly that to be religious, was to be renewed in the Image of God. By the Light my heavenly Father giveth me I now perceive, when I look back at theſe Things, how he was then drawing me to my Saviour: For ſometimes when I was under the Word, which I conſtantly attended, eſpecially when delivered by you, I have been in great Joy,

and thought well of my State, that I had Faith and Forgiveneſs of Sins, at other Times I doubted of it, yet was deeply convinced of my Vileneſs, and deſerving nothing but God's Wrath and eternal Damnation: Yet I reaſoned with ſome of our Brethren that I might have Forgiveneſs, and not have that feeling Senſe of it. Lord how prone Man is to juſtify himſelf! I wanted them to think me in a good State, which only diſcovered my Pride.

Sometime after, I heard you at the Barn at *Deptford*, preach on this very Subject, which Diſcourſe took me all to Pieces: I was quite unhinged. Now ſaid I, to thoſe along with me, I ſhall from this Time ſit down in the loweſt Room, among thoſe who are juſt awakened. Yet ſuch was the ſtubbornneſs of my Heart, it would not permit me to join with my Brethren in ſinging Hymns, as we came home.

I uſed to ſay, Mr. W. and Mr. N. are very credulous, to take you for Saints, as ſoon as any of you can ſay you have received ſuch or ſuch a *Gift*, and declare yourſelves to be juſtified: Why here is ſuch a talking about *Gifts*, if I was to receive a Gift, I ſhould keep it to myſelf, without making ſuch a Declaration. But God afterwards ſhewed me that herein I erred.

One Time I argued with my Brethren againſt being delivered from evil Thoughts; but this the Lord was pleaſed to reveal to me the ſame Night before our little Company broke up. The Words of our Lord came with Power into my Soul, even in a Moment, by which I was convinced

ced of this Part of my Miſtake: *Make the Tree Good, and its Fruit will be good alſo.* I immediately acknowledged the ſame, and ſhall never again have reaſon ſo doubt of that.

Thus my Heavenly Father led me on till the Sunday Morning before Chriſtmas Day laſt, when he was pleaſed to manifeſt himſelf further unto me, and make me feel, and experience in my Heart, the Forgiveneſs of my Sins. I may truly ſay he found me when I ſought him not, for I know not a Time when I went to the *Foundery* with more Indifference: I uſed commonly to be there before the Service began, but then I well remember I had not any warm Deſires in me. Mr H——s was at that Time diſcourſing upon the Love of God; *unexpectedly*, in a *Moment*, as *quick* as *Thought*, I *ſenſibly* felt my Heart open, I received his Love, with a *clear* Senſe of the Pardon of my Sins: My Soul burned with this Manifeſtation, it was overflowed with Love, and Tears of Joy ſtreamed from mine Eyes. I felt myſelf inexpreſſibly changed: All Unbelief was taken away, and my Soul united unto God.

I was in ſuch a Delightful State, that inſtead (as I purpoſed) of keeping this Gift to myſelf, I now wanted the Service to conclude, that I might tell thoſe who feared God, what he had done for my Soul. The Hymn at the Concluſion added to my Comfort, which was.

" Now I have found the Ground wherein,
" Sure my Soul's Anchor may remain," &c.

I returned home very joyful, declaring what the LORD had done for my Soul.

I went in the Forenoon to White Chapel Church, where I met with an Explication of what

I had received. The whole Service contributed to the Confirmation of my Faith. The Pſalms for the Day began, *O give Thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name, tell the People what Things he hath done.* Never was my Heart more lifted up never did I read theſe Lines in this Light before! *O let your Songs be of him, and praiſe him, and let your talking be of all his wonderous Works!* The Collect of the Day greatly concurred, "Grant "us ſo perfectly, and without all doubt to believe "in thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, that our Faith in thy "Sight may never be reproved." The Epiſtle alſo made me reckon myſelf no more a *Stranger and Foreigner, but a Fellow Citizen, with the Saints of the Houſehold of God.* The Goſpel alſo confirmed me in the Words of St. *Thomas*, I ſaid *my Lord* and *my God.*

Thus good Sir, I have given ſome Account of the great Things God has done for me, and what I have already attained. Glory be unto his Name for what he hath beſtowed upon me. But alas! ſince then, I have oftner than once fallen into Anger, which grieves his Spirit. I am not yet, but I earneſtly deſire to be delivered from inward Sin: It appears exceeding ſinful; I feel my own Helpleſſneſs, neither do I truſt in any Thing paſt. I often ſay.

"Gifts alas, cannot ſuffice,
"And Comforts all are vain;
"While one evil Thought can riſe,
"I am not born again:
"Still I am not as my Lord,
"Thy holy Will I do not prove, &c.

I know my Saviour is able to help me, and I firmly believe he will carry on the Work he has begun in my Soul. I desire to wait his Time and Manner till I have full Redemption, till I arrive at the *Mark for the Prize of the high Calling of God in Christ Jesus:* 'Till I am fully renewed in the Image of God; till I am made a *Partaker of the divine Nature*, till *all old Things are done away*, till I am *so born of God*, as *not to commit Sin* in any Measure, 'till I am *sanctified wholly in Spirit, Soul and Body.*

And may the God of Glory preserve and bless your precious Life long among us, and give you a double Portion of his Spirit; that after you have been the happy Instrument of bringing many, very many Sons to Glory, you may shine as the Brightness of the Firmament in the Kingdom of your Father for ever, is the Prayer, Rev. Sir,

Of the unworthy A. I.

LETTER XXXVIII.

Rev. Sir, *Dec. 27th*, 1742.

I Received your kind and pious Letter, and *should* have wrote sooner to acquaint you with my State, since you was so good as to desire it: But the Reason why I deferred it was, my being out of all Hope of receiving any Benefit from any Means. I have wearied all my Friends and Correspondents with my vain Complaints, and am now myself tired of complaining. The ALMIGHTY does not regard my languid sinful Prayers: He hath hid Himself from me, and shut me

me up in thick Darkneſs. My Heart is hardened from his Fear, nor can I ſee my Want, nor mourn my Miſery. I have not *even* a notional Faith, nor any Will, or Endeavour to turn. The little ſpark of Grace I once had is totally extinguiſhed, I have not any Concern at all. I cannot ſee Sin, nor can I pray from my Heart, either for myſelf or others: Yet do I make a conſtant Uſe of all the Ordinances of CHRIST: I would not willingly commit *any* Sin, nor can I allow it in others, and am unwilling to bring a Scandal upon the People of GOD. I ſhould not think any Duty too hard if my Heart were but affected. But, alas! woe is me, I am tyed down by a thouſand, yea ten thouſand Chains, and can no more lift up my Heart to GOD, than I can reach Heaven with my Finger. My Soul is quite dead.

I was ſometime ago wiſhing to be in this or that Place, and ſtill as my Deſires for GOD grew weaker, would wiſh I was but as I was the Year, or Month, or Week before: But now I cannot have any Senſe of my Loſs. The Brethren here have prayed for me, but I am ſtill more hard and more blind. I have no Notion of Death, or Hell, or Judgment, or Eternity; nor have I any Senſe of the Law of GOD. If at any Time I have a faint Remembrance of the Grace I once had, how I was affected ſome Years ſince, and find ſome Sorrow for the Loſs of my Saviour; or if a Verſe of an Hymn affects me, and forces a Tear from my flinty Heart, yet it continues not, but is like a Flaſh of Lightning immediately gone.

I greatly long to ſee you, or your Brother here: Perhaps the Word might come again with Power to my Soul. I am yet alive, therefore I will not ſay it is impoſſible for GOD to change *even me*: Some Miracle of Grace may make *even me* a Monument of Mercy; I would fain ſee my Wants, and mourn my Sins, and grieve under the Burden of my Woe: For I cannot conceive it poſſible I ſhould love CHRIST without extremity of Need compels me to it. O wretched Soul, this is thy ſad Condition! I cannot find any Way of returning, for I cannot repent: I have ſeveral Times fervently prayed for *one* Beam of Light, but have found no Anſwer.

In ſhort, I have taken a great deal of Pains to deſtroy myſelf; the more I ſtrove, the more I was entangled. I know I formerly ſought GOD ſincerely, but when I endeavoured to give up my whole Heart unto him, the Devil laid all his Snares for me, and I am now his Captive. I have betrayed my Soul by endeavouring to preſerve it. Their Condition is preferable to mine, who live in open Profaneneſs: For were they once convinced of their Danger, they would gladly embrace the SAVIOUR; but I have a double Vail upon *my* Heart: And if I periſh *my* Puniſhment will be far greater. When I look upon my ſelf in this Light, I do think there is not a more wretched Creature breathing. I wander about like a deſolate Exile. I have loſt my Reaſon, and my Underſtanding is taken from me. I have no Peace, but a fearful Expectation of Judgment. Oh! that the Son of GOD would look upon me in

in my loſt Eſtate, and force me to be ſaved by Grace! If I ſhould be reſtored again I will prize his Mercy; and ſurely then I ſhall ſerve him all the reſt of my Days. But, O 'tis a ſad Thing when one cannot repent, or *even* ſincerely deſire it! My Hands hang down.

I have a Thought ſometimes to caſt off the Form, ſince I have loſt the Power of Religion. I would fain die, if Death would ſet me free; but I am not willing to quit all Hopes of Heaven.

I beg you will enquire of the LORD for me, and wreſtle with him in my behalf, and if my Day of Grace is not yet over, O beſeech him to give me the Comfort of his Help again, and that his Spirit may ſtrive with me. I ſent a Letter to this Purpoſe to Mr. M—— a Fortnight ago, but received no Anſwer. Perhaps the LORD ſhewed him I was loſt, and he might be unwilling to tell me ſo. But I beg Mr. W——s would join with you in Prayer, and let me know what the LORD will ſay concerning me. I ſhall impatiently wait the Anſwer, for I would fain know the worſt. I will yet wait upon the LORD, if I periſh, I will not periſh for want of aſking: I will draw near unto GOD with my Lips, tho' my Heart is far from him.

Thus I have given you a Deſcription of Hell upon Earth: But I am confident you will not think much to labour for my Soul, or angrily reproach my Unprofitableneſs, notwithſtanding the good Advice you have often given me, ſeems to be loſt upon me. I have ſpun this to an unreaſonable

reaſonable Length, but I hope you will excuſe my Weakneſs,

Who am your moſt unworthy Servant, A. N.

P. S. I have juſt received a moſt comfortable Letter from Mr. M——d; it has given me Hope that I, *even I* ſhall yet *know* and *love* JESUS CHRIST.

LETTER XXXIX.

Rev. Sir,

I Know your Love and Care for our Souls is great, and therefore I ſend you theſe few Lines to inform you how the bleſſed JESUS deals with us: I find my Soul grow ſtronger and ſtronger in the LORD daily. He hath given me to eat of the *hidden Manna, and the Tree of Life*, and given me *the White Stone, with the new Name written therein, which none know ſave thoſe who receive it:* And hath revealed Himſelf unto me, in the Manner he doth not unto the World. My Soul is joined to CHRIST. I can pray without ceaſing. The Love of GOD is abundantly ſhed abroad in my Soul; yet I continually hunger and thirſt for more. O how I deſire to do the Will of GOD on Earth, as Angels do it in Heaven! The LORD hath given me to believe that whatſoever I aſk the Father in the Name of JESUS he will do it for me. I feel his Word and Promiſe applied: He does give me what I aſk. O that I could expreſs the Love I feel to GOD, and all Mankind: I could freely lay down my Life for the Salvation of any one Sinner in the World.

Great and inexpreſſible is that Love wherewith JESUS loveth us. Sweet to my Soul are all his Commands. If at any Time I have any Temptation to break any of them, my whole Heart riſeth up againſt it; and for the love I have unto the Law-giver, and to the Purity of his Law, I would rather die than break the leaſt Commandment. How can I offend ſo loving and gracious a Saviour. I would not do any Thing which might diſpleaſe my heavenly Father. In all Things wherein I ſee the Will of GOD, he enables me to do it *joyfully*.

I am always leſs or more happy in the LORD. Indeed ſometimes I think there is ſomething like a Vail which covers that *great* Glory of the LORD, which at other Times I ſee: But I then lie at the Saviour's Feet, and wait till he gives me that ſight of his glorious Face again. I am never without him, but ſometimes he does *fill* my Soul ſo much with his lovely Preſence, that my Body can ſcarcely bear it, and I cannot at all expreſs it.

Within theſe few Days I have had a peculiar Senſe of my Unworthineſs, and ſuch a ſinking into Humility as I have not always; ſo that I think myſelf utterly unworthy to lie at the Feet of CHRIST: If I could find any Place near unto him, lower than this, I would lie there. But he has honoured me with a Place at his *dear* Feet, and his Wings overſhadow me, and keep me from all Storms. O that I could praiſe him ſufficiently!

Dear Sir, remember me in your Prayers, and Praiſes:

Praiſes: And may JESUS CHRIST continually bleſs you. I believe he will. O faithful Shepherd of the Flock! Your Feet are beautiful wherever you carry the glad Tidings of Peace. Bleſſed be your goings out, and comings in; your riſing up, and your lying down. May JESUS be with you for ever and ever.

From your unworthy Friend in Chriſt Jeſus,
E. V.

LETTER XL.

My dear Brother,

I Received your Letter, and I heartily wiſh the LORD may manifeſt himſelf unto you this Day, and give you his Spirit to bear Witneſs with your Spirit that you are a Son of GOD. I beg of you, reſt not Night or Day, till you reſt in JESUS CHRIST. Let me alſo entreat you to hear and cleave unto Mr. W——, for I aſſure you he is a good Man, and I, and many Souls in this Country were greatly bleſſed in hearing the Word of the LORD from his Mouth.

When I came down here, I found the People running from Town to Town, and not one in fifty knew what they went for: But when I told them what GOD had done for my Soul, they cried, *away with ſuch a Fellow from the Earth, for he is not fit to live.*

Mr. *I*—— ſent for me, and ſeemed much offended that I was ſo bold, but the LORD put Words in my Mouth that he could not gainſay: And indeed all that came to diſpute with me, whether

whether *Pr——ns, or ſtill ones*, were not able to confute what I ſaid, tho' they would not be convinced by it. And tho' there was not a Man in theſe Parts that would agree to what I ſaid, even when I proved it agreeable to the Word of God, yet he has given me ſuch a Witneſs of his Love that if all Men in the World were to oppoſe me, they could not ſhake my Soul. I reſt on my Lord's Words, for he has ſaid, *I will never leave thee, nor forſake thee.* Seeing that the Lord hath made uſe of ſuch a weak Worm as me, and has given me to love all his Creatures, ſo that I cannot deſire the Death of a Fly or Worm, and a burning Zeal for all Men's Souls, I will run and not faint.

When Mr. W. began to preach out of the Churches, in *Morefields* and *Kennington-Common*, I was deeply convinced of my loſt Condition, and felt in myſelf the Sentence of Condemnation, when the dear Saviour of Sinners ſpake Peace to my Soul: And ever ſince he has continued unto me ſome ſight and ſenſe of his Love; tho' for a Year or more I was ſometimes brought very low, and at other Times I have been ſo full of Love, that Tears of Joy have flowed from my Eyes, to think that Jesus would love and look upon ſuch a Wretch as me. A little before I came from *London* I was at *St. Paul's*, at the Sacrament, as I kneeled before him the Love of God was ſo great in my Heart, that I thought I ſhould have fallen to the Ground, and from that Time I have had a ſtedfaſt Confidence, and a laſting Peace: and no other Doctrine than that I heard from the begin-

beginning, hath any Place in my Mind unto this Day.

I desire that you, and all Brethren would pray that I may stand fast unto the End. The LORD works very visibly and powerfully among us: We have fresh Tokens of his Grace every Week, yea in some Weeks six or seven are brought to the Knowledge of Salvation by the Remission of their Sins; and many who have been Despisers, are now thanking GOD who hath opened their Eyes. The LORD generally maketh a *short* Work among us; some have found the glad Tidings *experimentally true* in three times hearing.

At my coming into this Country, no Man stood with me, but my Name was cast out by Professors and profane, so that I was like an Owl in the Desert; but a few who were bruised by the Hand of GOD soon heard of, and received the Doctrine of *conscious Pardon*, and in a little time seven of them found it verified in themselves: but Mr. J—m reproved them for confessing it before the World: Accordingly he sent for me, and desired me not to speak so boldly, it would make the Country use us ill. I told him if every Man in the World was to cast Stones at me, I would tell what GOD had done for my Soul, and what he is willing to do for others: For I loved all Mankind, and feared no Man.

The People of the neighbouring Towns have frequently sent for me, to hear of this *new Doctrine*: For they were quite sure that no Man could know his *Sins forgiven* in this World. But I proved it from the written Word of GOD, and from the Doctrine of the Church of *England*. In a little

a little Time many cried out, "LORD GRANT "THIS THING UNTO ME!" Our Number of Believers ſoon increaſed to Thirty; then I found I muſt ſpeak publickly among them, for the People thronged, and filled my Houſe. In this I found Cowardlineſs in my Fleſh, and craved for Death, or that GOD would take my Speech from me rather than call me to it: But ſtill I found my Mind full of Matter, and when I ſpoke, the People ſtarted as if I had thrown Fire Brands at them. So the LORD ſetting to his Seal, and owning the Word, I had not any excuſe; then I ſaid, LORD, if thou ſendeſt me to Hell to preach to Devils, *thy Will be done*. At the People's requeſt, I now preach every Night in the Week in general, and the Work increaſes much, and yet I am (in a ſenſe) alone. I want to have ſome Correſpondance with Mr. W——y, my Heart is knit to him, as the Heart of one Man, and ſo are many of the Children which GOD has called by my Mouth. *Some* of them *indeed* falleth into *Stillneſs*, and *they* ſay I have the Spirit of *Conviction*, but not the Gift of *building-up* of Souls: But however thoſe who ſtand faſt as they received Chriſt, they are more *holy* and *happy*, and ſo I think as well *built up*.

I beg you would let Mr. W——y know how all is with us, and deſire him to pray for me, for I owe myſelf unto him: Entreat him to ſend me a Letter, and let me know his Mind of theſe Matters. Give my kind Love to all Friends with you: I ſhould be glad to hear from you.

I remain your unworthy Brother in Chriſt,

J. N.

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LETTER XLI.

Rev. Sir, *May 4th*, 1742.

WHEN you left *Briſtol* I had a great ſight of the Promiſed Land, and ſurely I did taſte of the Fruit thereof: But now it ſeems at a greater Diſtance, yet I cannot doubt but my Lord will appear the ſecond Time, without Sin unto Salvation, and it may be very ſuddenly. O that I may be found Watching! Sometimes I find my Soul ſo poor, and heavy, ſo dull, and naked of ſpiritual Comfort, that I have nothing left but a Senſe of pardoning Love: Yet at ſuch Times I have found a greater Reſignation to the Will of GOD, than at ſome others.

I earneſtly long to do the Will of my heavenly Father. None but the Searcher of Hearts knows how my Soul thirſts to *love* and *obey* him. My Spirit groans to be delivered from the Bondage of Corruption: I want to be nearer to CHRIST and to become one Spirit with him, in a fuller Senſe of the Word, than I have yet attained.

Since the beginning of laſt Week I have had, almoſt continually, a ſinking and depreſſion in my Spirit, attended with an inward Trembling, which ſo affects my Body, as if my Life was departing from me. O that it might be a ſymptom of the old Man's death. O that CHRIST might be *fully* formed in me. This cloſe exerciſe of Mind brings ſuch a lowneſs of Spirit, and inward mourning, that my Heart ſeems to bleed with Contrition, and I could be content to weep my Life away at the Feet of JESUS: In the midſt of this I find ſettled Peace, and ſolid Comfort.

In

In this State, I do not find I can aſk, or deſire Joy or Grief, Light or Darkneſs, but to be kept from offending GOD, and empowered to uſe, as I ought the Talents he gives me, that they may anſwer the Ends of his Glory, my Advantage, and his People's good. I never ſee the Power of GOD more viſibly, than when it is perfected in my Weakneſs, in doing the leaſt good to any other: For many Times I cannot help asking Pardon of my LORD for my poor, yea ſinful Manner of performing my Duty in any Reſpect; and eſpecially in admoniſhing and reproving others: And yet the LORD doth frequently bleſs to others, thoſe Labours I have need to repent of myſelf. At the preſent I find ſuch Self-abaſement, as makes me hateful to myſelf when others ſpeak well of me.

I find I can now declare my Mind unto you with great Freedom, as frequently I can in Writing unto others; and tho' I ſpeak from the overflowing Love, and great abundance of my Heart, yet I am afraid leaſt this ſhould be a Means of their thinking of me above what I really am. I am ſo full of Weakneſſes and Infirmities, that I fear leaſt my Converſation ſhould rather be a Stumbling-block, than an agreeable Example. I have often reflected upon myſelf for my being leſs watchful at ſome other Times, than when in your preſence. If I always ſaw myſelf as ſeen by my Maker, I ſhould not be liable to theſe Changes. I could at this Time tell you the inmoſt Secrets of my Heart; and I could be willing that there were a Window opened in my Breaſt, that all

the

the Children of GOD might ſee every Thing which paſſes there.

It is not ſo eaſy a Matter to diſcover the State of another, by the ſtricteſt perſonal Examination, as by a daily Obſervation of their Behaviour in their reſpective Callings, how they ſpend their Time in private, and whether they buy up every Opportunity of doing good. If our Soul is but yet *partly* renewed in the *Image* of *GOD*, there is not any Time for trifling; and if it is wholly renewed, there is not any Inclination unto it, but an inſatiate Deſire of doing every Thing for GOD. They ſay, *My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.* O that none of us who have received Grace, may ever be guilty of waſting our LORD's Goods, or neglecting the Improvement of the Talents we have delivered unto us. But, O LORD, grant that we may be burning and ſhining Lights, and adorn thy Goſpel in all Things. O that I may be a Pearl in your Crown of rejoicing in the DAY of the LORD.

I am your unworthy Friend in Chriſt, S. D.

LETTER XLII.

Rev. and dear Sir, *Auguſt* 23*d* 1742.

I Deſire to praiſe the LORD, I find He is ſtil[l] with me, and I truſt He will continue with me in all my Temptations. When the Enemy comes in as a Flood, the Spirit of the LORD lifts up a Standard againſt him: When Troubles are at Hand, I go and fall down before Him and humbly aſk His Help, and He comforts me with His Love

Love, and makes a way for my Eſcape, ſo that I am able to bear them. I am happy beyond all Expreſſion when I feel and know that JESUS loves me, *even me*, a poor, weak, ſinful Creature: I am frequently unfaithful, and at every Turn grieving the Holy Spirit, and yet His Love is not taken from me, but very great toward me. I pray I never may be left to my own deceitful Heart, for then I ſhall run into all Manner of Wickedneſs, but may I be *kept by thy Power*, O LORD, *through Faith unto full Salvation.*

DEAR Sir, the Time, I believe is haſtening on, when I ſhall *rejoice evermore, pray without ceaſing, and in every Thing give Thanks, for this is the Will of* GOD *in Chriſt Jeſus concerning me.* The Hope of this is a Bleſſing unto me, it lifts my fainting Spirits up, and quickens every Power of my Mind. Laſt Sunday I was at St. Paul's, I felt the Love of GOD ſo ſhed abroad in my Heart, as I cannot expreſs, and ſuch Sweetneſs, and Joy in my Soul, as my Tongue can never explain. *Indeed His Name was as Ointment poured forth*: And this I could truely ſay.

" Thy NAME a ſweeter Odour caſt,
" Than *Lebanon* with Cedars grac'd."

I had ſuch glorious Thoughts and Apprehenſions of GOD as I never had in all my Life before: And ſurely I had a Taſte of that *Perfect Love* of GOD, with which I hope to be filled to all Eternity. O how I long for the meek and lowly Mind which is alſo in Chriſt! Then, *only* then ſhall I find Reſt to my Soul.

I have many Trials and Temptations, and ſome-

ſometimes I am afraid I ſhall fall by them. *Without are Fightings and Within are Fears*; but I pray to be delivered from the Plague of my own Heart, which is worſe than any Thing elſe to me, and I find Help. I beg you would alſo pray for me that I may not faint in the End, but that I may run with ſteady Patience, the Race ſet before me; always looking unto Jeſus who has been the Author until He become the Finiſher of my Faith.

My Maſter's Behaviour is often a very great Burden and Trial to me, yet *even* in this, when I look to Jeſus, I am a Conqueror. One or other of the *ſtill Brethren* are often with him, and I think he ſeems to incline to their Way very much, he ſays there is much Sweetneſs and Love among them. When I tell him what I think of him, he tells me, I cannot ſee all Things clearly yet, and what is Sin to me may not be ſo to him: I think by this Rule one might have an excuſe for the Breach of any Commandment. That which is ſinful in itſelf, is ſinful to every one who does it. But I leave them *to their own Maſter to ſtand or fall*; altho' I know by Experience, to be in their Company, is hurtful to *me*.

I DESIRE to know nothing but Jeſus Chriſt, and Him crucified, and ſimply to love and follow Him whitherſoever He goeth, through Fire and Water, and all Trials He may permit to come upon me till He brings me into the wealthy Place. I truſt He will give me Power to deny myſelf, and take up my Croſs daily. I have yet many fooliſh, and hurtful Deſires; but the *ſtrongeſt* is that of following

ing Jeſus; and I ſay of the other, *theſe* ſhall *He deſtroy by the Spirit of His Mouth, and by the Brightneſs of His Appearing.* I am leſs than the leaſt of all my Fathers Children, yet I truſt I ſhall be a Jewel in the LORD's Cabinet, and *your* Crown of rejoicing in that Day which is approaching. I ſhould be glad of a few Lines from you, if it was the LORD's will, if not, his Will be done. May the LORD direct and bleſs you in *you* all *do* and *ſay*, and fill you with the Bleſſing of the Goſpel of Peace.

I am your unworthy Siſter &c. E. H.

LETTER XLIII.

My dear Friend,

GRACE Mercy, and Peace, be multiplied unto you from God the Father, thro' the Knowledge of Jeſus Chriſt.

I have not forgotten you or the reſt of my dear Friends at * * *: I give God the Glory, I was often refreſh'd among them; and found the true Communion of Saints in many of our Meetings.

After travelling thro' ſome Parts of I———, I came hither a few Days ago; and have entered on my Labours. I ſtill Experience the Goodneſs of God, and ſee my great Neceſſities, and various Infirmities! I often fear I ſhall become a Caſtaway; tho' generally I have a good Hope thro' Grace. I know little of you; but ſince you deſire my Judgment of your State, it is

Firſt. That God juſtified you freely.

Secondly. That you earneſtly deſire to be *Holy, unblamable, and unreprovable* in his Sight.

Yet

Yet Thirdly. I think you have two Enemies which are naturally very ſtrong; I mean Pride and Self Will. God can, and will, utterly deſtroy them if you hold faſt your Integrity.

His Will is your Sanctification! He hath ſhew'd thee what is Good. Walk then according to the Light, and you ſhall receive Grace for Grace! Chriſt will be formed in your Heart, and a vain Thought ſhall not lodge within you: And when the Lord is gracious to you, then pour out a Prayer for my Soul, that I may be *faithful* unto Death!

I am your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER XLIV.

My dear Friend,

HItherto God has helped me! I ſtill deſire to be inwardly, and perfectly, ſanctified united to CHRIST, filled with GOD, and guided by the HOLY GHOST. I delight in God above all temporary Good, yet I have not perfect love, I have not received the little Child in the Name of Jeſus! My Conceptions of Chriſtian Perfection; may be ſometimes too high, and at other Seaſons too low. The more I know of God and myſelf, the more I am ſenſible that I know little of either! Love is that by which I underſtand moſt of his Nature. Light is that whereby I conceive beſt of his Glory. O! what need of Faith, to caſt down reaſonings! and of divine Love to ſatisfy the empty and hungry Soul! Chriſtian Converſation has been eminently bleſt to me; and now that I am in a great Meaſure deprived of it, I pray that

JESUS

JESUS would manifeſt Himſelf to me more than ever. May he convince me of what is wrong in my Heart, and manner of Life; and yet if he did not ſuſtain me, this Conviction wou'd be intollerable! I hope you, and my other dear Friends pray for me. O! that I may be found faithful. My kindeſt Love to —— &c. peace, be with you; and may I ſee you again that we may praiſe the LORD together.

I am your affectionate Brother, &c. T. W.

LETTER XLV.

My dear Friend,

THE Souls whom GOD himſelf has united, cannot be disjoined by the length of Time or diſtance of place! I have enjoy'd with you the Communion of Saints; and ſtill my Spirit is with you; and when before our bleſſed Father I offer my earneſt Prayers, That he wou'd multiply his Mercies upon you; and make you as perfect in Holineſs, and Happineſs, as your Nature is capable of. I thank Jeſus Chriſt our LORD, That I have ever known you! My preſent State is, A looking, longing, and waiting for the Salvation of GOD!

I feel Unbelief; and perhaps ſome irregular Affection (i. e. Anger or Impatience) for a Moment; yet I often rejoice, and am affected in Body, and Mind, with the greatneſs, and goodneſs of GOD. I ſaw this Afternoon, (in ſecret Prayer) That my inward parts want to be rectified. O! pray That GOD wou'd grant this Thing that I long

I long for:—I make no long Compoſitions with the LORD; let him only give me to experiance what is implyed in theſe Promiſes. John iv, 14. *Whoſoever drinketh of the Water that I ſhall give him, ſhall never thirſt; But the Water that I ſhall give him ſhall be in him a Well of Water ſpringing up into everlaſting Life:* And 1. John i. ix. *If we confeſs our Sins, He is faithful and juſt to forgive us our Sins, and to cleanſe us from all Unrighteouſneſs,* and then do with me, and for me, as ſeemeth good in his Sight. I love you all, and long to ſee you.

I am your affectionate Brother, in our LORD JESUS. T. W.

LETTER XLVI.

My very dear Friend,

IF the LORD pleaſe, I wou'd be willing to want the Happineſs I often feel, if that would further me in the Way of Self Denial, and perfect Love. I ſenſibly feel Unbelief, and am in a Meaſure aſhamed. I daily weep, and pray, ſtill that ſomething is not in me. The Inward truſt! the Hidden Life!

The GOD that made me, he only can make me a Chriſtian. I fall down before him, and implore his Help.

I ſay to him "If Jeſus has not died; and if he "does not pray for me, let me not be forgiven, "ſanctified or ſaved, but if he is my Surety, let "me be free! Juſtice requites this Mercy wou'd "have it ſo!" I want to be any Thing, or Nothing, for his Sake. When you meet together

(which ought to be often) aſk of the Lord to remove the Hindrance, and perfect the Thing that concerneth me. My kindeſt Love to our dear Friends.

I am your affectionate Brother, &c.

LETTER XLVII.

My dear Friend,

YOU favour'd me much in writing firſt, and therefore I gladly embrace the Opportunity of returning an anſwer, though it cannot be much to the purpoſe, as I have little Time; but I know your Love will make all the Allowances I can deſire. I have had a buſy Week, but with it a time of Comfort; The Lord makes hard Things eaſy by the Richneſs of his Love!

We whom God hath bleſſed with like precious Faith, have had two Meetings to Day; being twenty in number: We eſteem it both our Duty, and Intereſt, to buy up every Opportunity.

Siſter C—— deſires her kind Love to you: She is very happy, and would think herſelf highly favour'd by a Letter from you.

The Lord made your Converſation a great Bleſſing to my Soul when you was at Y——: I now ſee my Way before me much better than I did before, tho' I know nothing as I ought to know, yet I truſt to preſs forwards with all my Heart, till I come to the deſired Mark, viz. *To know aſſuredly that in all Things I pleaſe God!*

As

As I had only a few Hours reſt laſt Night, and as I am now breaking in upon ſleeping Hours, I muſt beg leave to conclude myſelf,

Your Siſter in Chriſt, R. H.

LETTER XLVIII.

My dear Siſter,

IT was ſomething of a Tryal to me that you never anſwered my Letter; but I daily learn, that they who are called to bear all things, have all Things to bear! I doubt not but you ſee it is the Will of the Lord that you ſhould be ſo long at L——. But why are they more favoured than we at Y——? Have you no Hopes of doing any more good here? O! how glad ſhould I be would you return. But what am I ſaying? I acknowledge I am ignorant! I know not which is for the beſt! The good Lord direct you in this and all Things in ſuch a manner as will be moſt for his Glory.

The Lord did graciouſly work upon my Heart, by your Inſtrumentality: He open'd my Eyes to ſee the Wonders of his holy Law, and glory be unto him, "he gently clears my way." A great part of my Throng is over, but as you obſerved; my Work of another kind increaſeth: I find more and more Employment in doing Good, and my Soul is more bleſſed: In this Work what need have I of Light, and Wiſdom, as well as Love!

I hope you will not forget to pray for me; I have great need, I think I ſtand in the Front of the Battle! I feel I hunger, and thirſt after Righteouſneſs, and I doubt not but I ſhall be

filled! My God ſhall ſupply all my Wants out of his abundant Fulneſs!

I think our Society (in general) grows in Grace. There are many brought to the Knowledge of God ſince you left us. Many of the Believers are (I truſt) preſſing towards the Mark. Our moſt intimate Friends make conſiderable Advances in Holineſs. Poor R—— is very happy at S——. If our Brethren had known of my writing I dare ſay many would have ſent their Love. If you find it in your Heart to give me any Word of Inſtruction you know I ſhall gladly receive it: If you ſhould not the Lord's Will be done. Peace be with you, and all that love our Lord Jeſus in Sincerity. Adieu.

R. H.

LETTER XLIX.

My dear Brother,

THE late Converſation we had, together with your Favour in Writing cauſed much Unity of Spirit with you. I have often thought the Wiſdom and underſtanding which God has given you, will prove in Effect a Misfortune, unleſs you are careful to join with them the Simplicity of a little Child; ſince you muſt neceſſarily loſe much of the ſweet Converſation of the Simple Followers of the Lamb from the very Notion they have of you.

I know you clearly ſee that all Gifts without Charity will profit you nothing, and I truſt your continual Prayer to God is, that with all his

other

other Bleſſings, he would increaſe in you abundantly even this Grace of the Spirit.

I know the Will of God concerning you is that you ſhou'd be perfect and intire, lacking nothing. With reſpect to your preſent Tryals, you may remember I told you I was not altogether a Stranger to it, from the Apprehenſion of its being e'er long my own Caſe, and therefore I have innured my ſelf to the Loſs of any or all Things if the Lord call me to it.

One Day in my retired Moments, the Language of my Heart was, "Lord I cannot bear "ſuch and ſuch a Tryal with the Grace I have, "I pray thee give me more; and that Scripture was applied with great Clearneſs, "I will be a Fa- "ther to the Fatherleſs, and defend the Cauſe of the "Widow." O may the Lord give you to feel from thoſe bleſſed Words, what he did to unworthy me: I had not the leaſt Scruple left, but was enabled fully to caſt my Care upon the Lord. I know my God ſhall ſupply all my Wants out of his abundant Fulneſs! Doubt not my Brother, but that he whoſe you are, and whom you ſerve, will be with you, and when you paſs through the Fire it ſhall not burn you, neither ſhall the Waters overflow you: This dark and cloudy Day ſhall e'er long end in Sunſhine! Only be faithful, be obedient.

At preſent my Husband and Child are in a bad State of Health. The Lord is viſiting both your Houſe, and mine; and this I am certain of, it is in great love to our Souls! He will have us paſs thro' and thro' the Fire, till we leave all our Droſs,

and come forth more pure than fine Gold! May the gracious Deſigns of a dear Redeemer be anſwered upon us for his Names Sake!

My kind Love to your dear Wife, if in the Land of the Living: Tell her ſhe has reaſon to bleſs the Lord from the riſing of the Sun to the going down thereof.

He is cutting ſhort his Work in Righteouſneſs. He is about to take her from the evil to come! The Angels are hovering round her, to do their laſt and moſt delightful Office! To covey her ſoul into Abraham's Boſom! then all will be broad Eternity! All Light! All Love! Then her happy Spirit ſhall ſweetly mingle with thoſe around the Throne, and ſing Halalujah to God and the Lamb, for ever and ever. I truſt our Prayers to God for you will not be wanting,

From your affectionate Siſter in Chriſt,

LETTER L.

Dear and worthy Sir, *July* 27, 1742.

I Very heartily embrace this Opportunity of Writing my Mind unto you, to inform you what the LORD has been doing for, and in my Soul. Since I was with you in *Branford*, we began our march, and ſuch-a-one I never had before. When I came to my Quarters the firſt Night, I had not any Place of Secrecy for Prayer: But I made a *Cloſet* of the neceſſary place, and CHRIST made a Paradiſe of it unto me. Here I met my divine Maſter. He is no reſpector of *Places*, more than *Perſons*. I could have been contented to have made that Place which was my Cloſet, and my Paradiſe, my Bed alſo, for the inexpreſſible

Sweetneſs I felt in the Preſence and Love of my Redeemer.

The next Night when I came to my Quarters, I was, if poſſible, many Times more happy than before. O the ſweet Preſence of CHRIST which I there found! I cannot forbear to ſpeak of it, and yet an Angelick Tongue cannot deſcribe it. What wonderous Work is this he hath done in my poor Heart! I am as if I was filled with the Love of GOD, and ſwallowed up with the Thoughts of GOD, and his Love towards me! When I think of his having fixed his Love on ſuch a vile unworthy Creature as me, who by Nature was as black as Hell, I am melted into Tears. O the Love of CHRIST to poor Sinners! He is fairer than the Sons of Men: Yea he is the chiefeſt among ten Thouſand, and altogether lovely. I was going on in the broad Way to Deſtruction, but he prevented me by the Bleſſings of his Goodneſs: If he had not had Compaſſion on me, where ſhould I have landed? Surely I muſt have landed in Hell. O my dear LORD, how ſhall I mourn for my Sins; how ſhall I praiſe Thee for the Pardon of them! Conſider, O my Soul, the countleſs Multitudes of Benefits thy GOD has beſtowed upon thee, and be thou confounded and aſhamed of thy Ingratitude.

I intreat Almighty GOD to give me Help, that I may preſs forward toward the Mark, for the Prize of the high Calling of GOD in CHRIST JESUS. For I am not to reſt in any Thing, or in any Meaſure of Grace attained on this ſide of Heaven; but ſtill be ſeeking after farther Diſco-

veries of CHRIST, until I enter within the Vail, where the Wicked ceaſe from troubling, and the Weary enjoy an everlaſting Reſt. O for perfect Freedom from Sin! *Yet* it cleaves unto me in all my Duties; I cannot get rid of it, however I ſhall one Day be free.

I had only one in the whole Troop, who would converſe and pray with me, and he is gone after the other: The Dog is returned to his Vomit, and the Sow to her wallowing in the Mire; ſo I am left alone among a Company of *Bears* and *Lions*. But God is all-ſufficient: He adds proportionate Strength to my Faith, for which I thank his dear Name. I hope, dear Sir, you will excuſe me in Writing unto you, and take the Trouble to read this, for I had no Body to break my Mind to. I would have got ſome Body to have wrote for me, to have done it better, but they would have thought me *mad* for writing ſo much Nonſenſe. If you would be ſo kind as ſend me two or three Lines, they would be ſweet as *Honey* to me. So no more at preſent from

Your loving Brother and humble Servant, J. H.

LETTER LI.

Rev. Sir, *October 2d*, 1742.

GOD has been pleaſed to make my Journey much ſhorter than I expected when I left you. When I met my Siſters in Band on Monday Night, they all ſtrove to comfort me under the Croſs. The Day I ſet out two of them joined with

with me in Prayer, and my Soul was much comforted and ſtrengthened: I reſigned myſelf into the Hands of GOD, looking upon myſelf to be ſtript of all outward Helps, I caſt myſelf upon the never-failing, and great Mercies of GOD.

It was on Friday I ſet out, I found the LORD very preſent with me on the Way. When I came to the Inn on Saturday, I aſked the Maid whether they got time to go to Church there, or no; ſhe ſaid they were to have Liberty to go to Church, but that they very ſeldom had. On Sunday I went to Church, but thought it ſtrange to hear a few ſinging, and all the reſt unconcerned in the Matter. When I returned back, again, one aſked me how I liked their Church, I anſwered, there were but a few People in it which was a want. He then began monſterouſly to condemn the Miniſter, and ſwear he could make as good a Sermon himſelf. I told him if he was a Preacher he would lead Men to *Hell*, not to Heaven: His Mouth was ſtopp'd, and he looked confounded, while all in the Room looked one on another. After the Evening Service I ſpent my Time in reading, ſinging, and praying: My Heart was in great Peace, yet I could but mourn as a Dove in my Solitude. I ſeemed as a Sheep wandered from the Fold, or as a Branch cut off from the Vine, or a Member from the Body: My Heart is ſo united unto my Siſters in Band, that when I am from them, I think part of myſelf is wanting. O the Bleſſedneſs of the Communion of Saints! I often think of the Happineſs my Brethren and Siſters enjoy, and it

cauſes me to grieve that I am abſent from them; which ſometimes makes me fear that I love the Children of God better than their Father, and the Means of Grace better than the Will of God. It is enough that Jesus loveth me, and beareth me up in his Arms. This ſight and ſenſe of God's Preſence made me aſhamed of my grieving, and comforted me greatly: My Heart was as melted Wax, and my Soul was much humbled before God.

On Monday I ſpake freely to two Women in the Waggon, one of which was a Scotch Woman; ſhe told me the People of *Scotland* loved God, and kept the Sabbath ſo ſtrictly that one muſt not carry Water thro' the Streets on that Day. Indeed ſhe had a good Deſire to be ſaved. I exhorted her to pray, and not faint, not *even* for Wandering Thoughts, of which ſhe complained. When I deſired the other not to ſwear, ſhe told me I ſhould quarrel with my Huſband, if I would not let him ſwear.

When I met my Huſband he could not ſpeak for Joy to ſee me; I was alſo very glad to ſee him, but did not feel that great flutter in my Breaſt, as I did upon any ſudden Joy, before I was united to God. Many came to welcome me to *Portſmouth*, and profeſſed to be glad to ſee me; but when I opened my Mouth to reprove them for ſwearing, they all fled away from me.

As ſoon as I was alone with my Huſband he told me he had been in very great Dangers at Sea: I aſked him, if he had been killed then, what would have been his everlaſting State? "If I had

"died

" died I ſhould have been ſaved for the Sake of " CHRIST who died to redeem all Men." I ſaid, do you think you deſerve Hell? " No, my dear, " for I do not ſwear and game as bad as my " Companions." I told him, your Heart is juſt the ſame with theirs, only the Grace of GOD reſtrains you more than they; you have never done one good Thing in your Life, but has always ſinned againſt GOD continually: He was greatly ſtruck at that Expreſſion, his Heart condemned him, and he began to relent, and aſked if I had any Petition to aſk of GOD in his Behalf. I prayed with him with great Freedom and Enlargement of Spirit, and Confidence in GOD; his Eyes were melted into many Tears, and he ſaid, " I am *very* wicked indeed. If I could live with " you I ſhould love GOD, but it is impoſſible on " board a Man of War." I ſaid, all Things are poſſible with GOD, *He is able to ſave unto the uttermoſt*, either by Land or Sea. When he aſked me to ſee the *Victory* Man of War, I told him if all the Curioſities of the World could be brought together in one Place, I would not loſe the Time to ſee them, I could ſpend it better. In ſhort, I ſpake very freely unto him of the Things appertaining to the Kingdom of GOD.

He ſaid, he once read ſo much till he was almoſt Melancholy at the ſight of his own Wickedneſs, and had like to have gone into Deſpair; he told the *Chaplain* of it, who bid him leave of reading ſo much, and he would be well again: I told him the *Chaplain* was not his Friend, for that GOD was ſtriving to bring him to a good State.

He revealed his Sins unto him that he might thro' Penitence, and Faith in CHRIST be forgiven. He ſaid alſo, you once told me in one of your Letters that you did not know till lately the Nature of true Religion, now you do: O that I might know the ſame, but if we ſo much as go to Prayer here, we are laughed at and reviled; and how ſhould one know Religion, and be acquainted with GOD, if one has not Opportunity to enquire of him in Prayer? I anſwered, my dear, you ſhould not be kept from Prayer for the Fear of being laughed at, for this would be the Caſe if you was not on board a Ship: I, you know am in *London* joined unto a Society of People who are ſeeking the LORD, and the Men of this World ſay all manner of Evil of us falſely. So it was ever ſince the *Fall:* Perſecution began in *Cain*, and it has been continued, in one Way or other, ever ſince. If you was in *London*, and roſe at five o'Clock every Morning, as I do, to hear the Scriptures expounded, the Men who know not GOD, would think you *mad*, therefore I ſay we muſt not be kept from Religion by a little fooliſh Laughter, or if we ſhould ſuffer greater Inconveniencies.

I was at *Portſmouth* only one Day, and then ſet out for *London* again. I was in many Temptations, but I prayed unto the LORD, and he ſtrengthened me. Firſt, Satan tempted me to think my Friends did not love me, but I thought if GOD loves me, it is enough: Then he tempted me to laugh at idle Things, and to ſay light Words, I cried unto the LORD, *LORD ſave me*

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or I periſh, and I found help in Time of Need. There were but two Perſons in Company with me, I ſpake of their ſwearing again and again, but with little Succeſs. A Stage Player came in by the way, when I reproved him, he ſaid nothing, but ſeemed in much Confuſion.

When I came Home my Spirit rejoiced greatly. O how I love the Ordinances and People of GOD! I have a ſmall Trial, in want of Work, but the Trouble of it does not tarry long, I fly unto the Saviour, and he taketh it away. Yet the thoughts of my poor Huſband's Condition return upon me. and ſo oppreſs me that I am well nigh overcome. my Soul is wonderfully drawn out in agonizing Prayer for Him. It may be the LORD will have Compaſſion upon him. Cries, and Tears, and Prayers ſhall not be wanting in his behalf.

Finally, the LORD, ſheweth me that my Heart is polluted with all Manner of Sin; I draw near unto him as a Man full of Diſeaſes to a Phyſician from whom he expects help. I doubt not but his *Blood* will heal all my Maladies, and make me *throughly* whole. Now, when I pray my Heart appeareth ſo unclean, compared with the Holineſs of my Maker, that I am aſhamed, and bluſh before him, while I remain in profound Silence, quite helpleſs at his Feet. Here I deſire to be, here I am determined to wait, till the LORD maketh me as he will. Dear Sir, pray for

Your weakeſt Daughter in CHRIST,

M. C.

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LETTER LII.

Rev. Sir, *London, July* 5, 1742.

THE following Lines are the Reſult of great Joy which I almoſt continually feel in my Heart: The LORD is now reviving and carrying on his Work in my Soul. I know that my Redeemer liveth, I feel that I have Redemption thro' his Blood, even the Forgiveneſs of my Sins. His Spirit is continually bearing Witneſs with my Spirit, that I am a Child of GOD. I have not any Doubts or Fears reſpecting my State. I feel a continual Hunger and Thirſt after Righteouſneſs, and that I might partake more and more of the Divine Nature, of the Power and Fullneſs, and Preſence of GOD. GOD's Preſence on Earth, is Heaven begun; it is ſweet *indeed* to my Soul, as Marrow and Fatneſs, ſweeter than Honey or the Honey-Comb. O that I might always enjoy the Light of his Countenance! O that my Soul might always be inflamed with Divine Love! I do always love him in ſome Meaſure, but I wiſh to love him more abundantly. I would have my Soul changed into the Nature of Love. I want to be like the Angels above. My continual Prayer is, that I may not commit Sin, but that the LORD would accompliſh in me his Will, by reſtoring me *unto the Meaſure of the Stature of a perfect Man in* CHRIST: *By creating me after himſelf; and ſanctifying me wholly in Body, Soul, and Spirit.*

At Intervals I find ſome Hidings, ſome Withdrawing of GOD's Preſence from me: But O what an aching Void do I then feel in my Soul! I

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am then reſtleſs, and importunate in my Deſires and Endeavours after GOD till he return. At ſuch Times I feel as if it was a Worm gnawing my Soul; and nothing in the Univerſe can give me any Eaſe or Satisfaction. The Effect this has upon me is, I ſee the Emptineſs of the whole Creation, without the Creator; I feel myſelf to be nothing but a Heap of Vanity and Confuſion. I find no Remedy but crying, *GOD be merciful unto me*, and help me a poor Sinner.

I deſire to give Glory to the Grace of GOD, I now feel much Power over outward and inward Sin: Far greater Power than I have had for ſome Years, *even* from the Time I was in my firſt love. "O my LORD and my GOD, do thou continue "to beſtow on me thy poor helpleſs Creature, "this Power continually: *Yea*, do thou augment "and increaſe it Day by Day."

I am deeply convinced of the Neceſſity of a *pure Heart*, a *ſingle Eye*, and a new Creation: Yea rather I am convinced of the impoſſibility of my Soul being happy without it. For indeed I can reliſh no other Happineſs, but what conſiſts in the Love of GOD, and in being like unto him, and in acting conformably to his Will. None of the trifling Vanities, or little periſhing Things of this World, can ſatisfy the great Deſires of my immortal Spirit. The LORD has given me a Foretaſte of heavenly Delight, in contemplating the amiable Perfections of the Divine Nature, and feeling my Soul exhilarated by his loving preſence, which has kindled ſuch a flaming Deſire in my Spirit for GOD, as can never be ſatisfied but with

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all his Fullneſs. There is ſomething in me continually craving. There ſeems to be an Emptineſs in me, a lack of ſomething eſſential to my Soul's Happineſs: Which Lack, I well know is the *perfect Stature of a Man in CHRIST.* It is that *alone* can make me happy. The Want of which is the Cauſe of theſe Pantings, theſe Deſires, theſe achings and ſtrong Appetites, which do perpetually put me upon crying unto the LORD that he would transfer his Image to my Soul. That he would deſtroy all my Sin, both outward and inward, both original and actual: That he would purify my Heart, by reſtoring me unto *perfect* Righteouſneſs and *true* Holineſs, and making me a Partaker of the Divine Nature, by lifting up the light of his Countenance upon me, ſo that I may continually ſit under the Dropings of his Sanctuary, and his Shadow with great Delight.

Theſe are the Deſires the LORD has given me, and ſure I am he will fulfil the Deſire of my Soul according to his Promiſe. *He that ſhall come, will come, and will not tarry.* I have already obtained the Salvation which ſome, *who are of little Minds*, ſpeak of. I am ſaved from Guilt, from Fear that giveth great Torment, and from the Dominion of Sin. I do not commit Sin in St. *John's* ſenſe. I am *almoſt* continually looking unto JESUS. I *almoſt* pray without ceaſing, and am thankful for the glorious Manifeſtations of the LORD. I rejoice *frequently* But will this ſatisfy the mighty Deſires of my Soul? No, it cannot, it will not, it does not. I am not yet ſwallowed up in GOD. I am not yet without Intermiſſion

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in a Flame of Love. This, *this* is, dear Sir, the Thing I aim at. Help me by your Prayers. I very much long to ſee you at my Houſe. It is the very great love I have unto you, and the Expectation I have of being profited by you, has made me ſo bold.

From yours in CHRIST, J. A.

LETTER LIII.

Rev. Sir, *April* 24, 1742. *Briſtol.*

I Rejoice at this Opportunity of Writing unto you. At firſt, indeed, I found an Unwillingneſs unto it, but I prayed unto the LORD that he would ſhew me if it was right I ſhould. I find my Soul does rejoice in GOD my Saviour. I feel a Peace which paſſes all Underſtanding, and which ſurmounts all Doubts and Fears. I have Power over all Sin, for when I feel it ſtir in my Heart, I directly look up unto the LORD JESUS, and he takes it from me: Yet the Enemy tells me that I am in a Deluſion, becauſe I do not reaſon, that therefore I reſiſt the Spirit: and when he would convince me, I will not permit him: But I commend my Cauſe to JESUS, and he ſhews me it is my Buſineſs to live unto him from Hour to Hour, and from Moment to Moment. Glory be to my Saviour, for he is nothing but Love; I could praiſe him till I could ſpeak no longer. I feel burning Deſires, and Hungerings, and Thirſtings which are ſtronger than Death. I look for the LORD JESUS coming into my Heart to ſeal me his abode, and make me one Spirit with himſelf.

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I have a ſure Hope that He will accompliſh his Work. I hear his Voice, and feel his Love. I cannot tell what JESUS does for me, for it takes away my Strength. I think I ſhall not be long in this World. I find my outward Man decays more and more. I could rejoice greatly to meet Death this Hour. Come LORD JESUS! But he knows beſt. My Time is in his Hand, and I know he will finiſh the Work of Holineſs in my poor Heart. Now, even now I feel my Heart in great Peace.

Dear Sir, pray for me, that I may have no Will but that of GOD's, and that I may be faithful to Death. O that I may to the utmoſt improve the Talents GOD has beſtowed on ſuch an unworthy Sinner as I am. What Matter of Praiſe it is, that I am alive to hear the everlaſting Goſpel of JESUS CHRIST! What ſhall I render unto him for all his Benefits. The Name of JESUS is more to my Soul than all the World. Every Moment he gives me freſh Tokens of his Love. *He creates all Things new.* Every Moment opens new Scenes of Spiritual Pleaſure. What ſhall I do to love JESUS? I long to love him with my *whole* Heart. O LORD give me ſtrength to *rejoice evermore, to pray without ceaſing, and in every Thing to give Thanks.*

I hope I ſhall never forget to offer my weak Prayers for you. May the LORD JESUS bleſs you, and be with you, and lead you by his Holy Spirit into *all* Truth. May he fill your Heart with his Love this Hour, and to all Eternity. So prays, from her *Heart*, your Daughter,

and unworthy Child in the Goſpel of CHRIST, S. C.

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LETTER LIV.

My dear Madam, *Nov. 20th* 1760.

I was very glad to hear from you, yet I ſhould not have taken it unkind if you had not wrote, but rather have imputed it to want of *Time* than want of *Love*. My daily Prayer for you is that all your Trials and Croſſes may be ſanctified unto you: I believe you have many at preſent, may you be helped to caſt all your Care on GOD. My dear Friend your LORD hath a Favour for you, He hath choſen you in the Furnace of Affliction: But when He hath tried you, you ſhall come forth as Gold refined. O that you may be ſeven Times purified, and ſtrongly bear the Stamp Divine. Let this be the Language of your Heart.

"No Croſs, no Suffering I decline,
"Only let my Heart be thine."

As is thy Day, ſo ſhall thy Strength be, is the ſure Word of Promiſe. He will lay no more on you, than by looking unto Him, you ſhall be enabled to bear.

I truſt the Means of Grace will not be wholly taken from you, but as you have but few at preſent, you will find the more Need of much private Prayer, and to ſearch the Scriptures daily; which if you are negligent of, or ſuffer other Things to intrude on the Time you ought to have for this, you will find deadneſs of Soul, and much Diſtraction of Mind will be the Iſſue. May the LORD teach you to profit by all you meet with.

I am yours in the beſt of Bonds.

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LETTER LV.

My dear Friend, *Jan.* 5, 1760.

I Greatly rejoice that the LORD hath called you out of Darkneſs, into His marvellous Light. O may the Light ſhine clearer and clearer unto the perfect Day. In order to this you have great Need to watch and pray, that you may be faithful to the Light you already have. The not being faithful to Grace given, ſeems to be the Reaſon why ſo many, after years Experience in the Grace of Chriſt, are ſtill Babes, and perhaps weaker than at the Beginning: Whereas St Peter exhorts us to *grow in Grace.*

Self-examination is a moſt excellent Help to our Growth, as it is a Means of bringing us acquainted with our natural Depravity, for certainly as we come to know this, in a right *Senſe*, we ſhall not only *ſee*, but *feel* the Neceſſity of a *Growth* in Holineſs, and ſo be put upon uſing every Means, and Help for this End. It is undoubtedly a great Bleſſing to have Faith, but it is a much greater to *keep* and *increaſe* it: Without which we ſhall have to anſwer for the Abuſe of it.

But the great Queſtion is, how, dear Madam, you and I may grow in Grace by uſing the *Means* of Grace? For nothing is more viſible than that many do this, who do not profit in Holineſs: And yet nothing is more certain than that the Fault lies *not* in the Means, which are well calculated to anſwer the End. 1. We muſt take ſpecial heed that we do not make the Means, the End, and ſo reſt in them as if they were the laſt Thing we have

have to aim at. We ſhould ever keep in Mind that right *Tempers*, and right *Affections* towards God and Men, is the Thing in purſuit and not the *mere* praying, hearing, or reading, &c. 2. We ſhould carefully avoid Wanderings, Slothfulneſs, and Formality in Duties: For the Heart *in* Duty, is the Heart and Soul *of* Duty. Without this, our praying and reading, &c. are no more devout and ſpiritual Performances; than the Motion of a *Clock*, is a vital Action. But if we always look to Chriſt, and *Holineſs* in Duties, and perform them with Fervour, Life and Earneſtneſs, we ſhall not fail to profit in *Righteouſneſs and true Holineſs*.

A clean Heart is entirely *deſireable*, and *neceſſary*; and in order to it, my dear, the more you conſider that all your *Trials* are appointed or permitted of God, the more will you be helped toward it, *by them*. Deadneſs to this World, and eſpecially to our own *Will* and *Deſire*, is quite neceſſary to the Life of Christ. Deſire always to feel the Love of God ſhed abroad in your Heart, and be not *too eaſy* without it: And deſire this, not only for the ineffable Sweetneſs it gives, but *chiefly* for the *Property* of it, which is to *kill Sin*, and the *Nature* of it, which is *Holineſs*. Without this, you may love *your ſelf*, but you cannot love God for his amiable Perfection, and infinite Holineſs, which is the *right* Way of loving him.

I ſhould think myſelf very happy, and be very thankful, if I am made of any Uſe to my dear Friend; let all the Glory be given unto God, it

is

is his Due. I am not incapable of getting Good from you. Do not think *too* highly of me, it would leſſen my Profitableneſs to you. I am a Worm of the Earth, *(tho' not an Earth-Worm)* and am encompaſſed with many Infirmities, which, the more you are acquainted with me, the more you will diſcover: Nevertheleſs, I love the LORD JESUS CHRIST; and I believe with all the Capacity I have at preſent, but have need to increaſe therein Day by Day. Pray for me, as I do for you: Who am

Your affectionate Siſter and Servant.

LETTER LVI.

My dear Madam, *Jan. 16th,* 1761.

I FEEL for you in your preſent Sufferings, but I ſtedfaſtly believe they will work together for your own good, and the Glory of God.

I know not but ſome of your diſtreſs is come upon you, for not ſufficiently owning the good Work of your Saviour in you. May the Lord help you in this Reſpect for the future. Pray for more power to leave every Thing *paſt* and *future* to God. *He bids thee go in Peace.* Take no *anxious* Thought for the Morrow, and ſo far as you do *this*, you will find, as your Day is, ſo will your Strength be. If you obſerve, my dear Friend, you will find that you are not ſo much overcome by the Tryals of *to Day*, as by what you ſuppoſe will or may be. O be thankful for what the Lord hath already done for you, and he will do more abundantly for you he: will conform your *Will* to

his

his *Will*, and melt and meeken all your Soul. You desire me to tell you all the Faults I know in you. This is a good Enquiry: Surely the Lord breathed this Desire into your Heart. Sometimes I think you hinder your own Happiness, by being too careful about outward Things, and generally *these* are Things to come: Now the more you strive to live to God the *present* Moment, and the freer you will be from this. Over much reasoning and contriving, make you use too little Prayer. While you retain a praying Spirit you will walk closely with God: But if you fall from this, you will be at a greater Distance from him May the Lord enable you to pray always, and *never never* faint.

This is indeed a barren Place, yet nevertheless the Lord makes it as the Garden of Eden to my Soul. I never found more of his Presence and Power, then I have done since we began to have a little Church in our own House.

Jesus is indeed in the midst of us, when we meet in his Name. Bear us on your Mind before our common Lord.

"Till all renew'd in Love we rise,
"And take our happy Seats above.

ADIEU.

LETTER LVII.

My dear Friend, *Feb. 25th*, 1761.

I Received yours with Joy, I thank God who has raised you up again, as also on account of Mr. —— Surely our God heareth, and answereth Prayer

Prayer. O how good it is to commend our cauſe unto him! "His Ear attends the ſofteſt Prayer."

Indeed, my dear, as you obſerve, it is a very difficult Thing for a generous and gracious Heart, to *love enough*, and not too *much*. I have not found any other way to keep clear of this Extream but by walking cloſely with God, and earneſtly commending myſelf, and them to God: Praying fervently that the Lord would more abundantly bleſs them for all their Kindneſs to me, and at the ſame Time endeavouring all I could, to lead them nearer to God. The Wounds you get from the Unkindneſs of others, and that ſinking of your Soul, into Idolatrous Fondneſs, of which you complain, is occaſioned by the Want of more inward ſpiritual *Strength*. My Love, you want a more watchful Spirit, that you may, in the midſt of theſe Hinderences you meet with, keep your Attention fixed on the bleſſed Jeſus; ſo ſhall his Love flow into our Heart, and be your continual Strength.

I hope it is not a *Name* you aim at, as it is abundantly more than a *Name*, even a new *Nature* which you want. I think you will find it beſt, not to reaſon about what God has already done for you, but rather pray him to pour out his Spirit more and more upon you, which is the only Thing you want, and this will help you to believe all the Promiſes of GOD, while the Spirit applies them with Power to your Heart. I am greatly deſirous *indeed* of your Proſperity, and ſo is your LORD: JESUS loves you, but you do not come to him ſo freely, and conſtantly as you ought,

ought, or you would have more abundant Life. But now take up your Croſs, and after your dear Maſter go. Be a faithful Witneſs for him, among his Enemies, and he will witneſs clearly to your Heart that you are all his own. O may the dear Lord Jeſus bleſs you with an increaſe of his Love.

My God is *ſtill my* Guide, and his Arm is my ſure Defence, I have ſeen much, very much of his Goodneſs, ſince I wrote laſt. And I remain,

Your inviolable Friend.

LETTER LVIII.

Dear Madam, *March, 25th, 1761.*

MAY Grace, Mercy, and Peace be multiplied upon you, from God our Father, and from our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

" Which will anſwer all your Soul's Deſire,
" All your largeſt Thoughts require."

O that God may give you more Oneneſs, and Communion with himſelf, and this, my dear, will be a means of ſweetening that exquiſite Senſe of the Miſery of others, you now feel. When I received yours, it affected me very much; I am grieved to think, you do not more ſenſibly experience the Sweetneſs of redeeming Love. Yet there may be many reaſons aſſigned for it. One, not the leaſt is your natural Extenſiveneſs of Mind, or the ſtrong Propenſity there is in you, to graſp many Things at once, beyond your Reach: And that with ſo great Intenſiveneſs of Deſire, as puts your Soul upon the Rack, while at

the ſame Time, one Thing interferes with another and none ſucceed aright.

You want to learn more Eaſe in your Application to Divine, and natural Things; and to be more ſimple in your Proceedings. Be a Perſon of *one Buſineſs*, viz. *A Follower of God.* And if every Branch of this Buſineſs cannot be followed, and profited in, at once; you muſt be content to take them by Turns. *Rome* was not built all on one Day. Moſt Perſons are too lukewarm, you may be too precipitate. A conſtant loving Attention to God in Prayer, and a ſimple looking unto Jeſus by Faith, will give you an holy Indifference to all other Things.

Another Reaſon of your not enjoying much of the ſweet Preſence of CHRIST, is, the *Encumbrances* of your Family, and the *Affairs* of your Station.

A third Reaſon may be the continued Weakneſs of your Body. But, no doubt, the Lord intends hereby to ſhew you your innumerable Imperfections, and great Weakneſs, and thereby bring you down to his Feet, that he may become *all in all* unto you.

I am alſo inclined to think, for I *muſt* not, I *cannot* diſſemble this Matter with you, your affections are too much ſet on earthly, and tranſitory Things; and of conſequence cannot be placed on the Things above, with that fervour they ought. *If any Man love Father, or Mother more than me, he is not worthy of ME.* And this is undoubtedly highly reaſonable, for as much as he is infinitely *lovely*. We cannot love any Creature

equal

equal with him, but we muſt be guilty of unreaſonable *Fondneſs*. This has in it the Sin of Ignorance, in preferring the *ſullied* Creation, to the Spotleſs, and tranſcendent *Beauty* of the *Creator*; and the Sin of *Idolatry*, in giving that Love unto a helpleſs Creature, which is due only to the ſupreme Author of all Things.

To remedy this, I adviſe you to get as much Time for Retirement, as you can, and there pray unto, and admire the infinite, and amiable Perfections of the Godhead, in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt. If you neglect ſomething elſe on this Account your Loſs will be made up. And although your Thoughts may be ever ſo diſtracted, continue to pray as you are able. You perhaps will ſay, you have but little Time for Retirement; and perhaps you do not take all the Time you might procure, and even of that which you do take, you perhaps do not ſpend enough of it in Prayer. Be convinced of this, that there is a great Neceſſity for you to pray more than you have done. It is ſtrange we ſhould need entreating to that which is our greateſt *Honour* and *Intereſt*. God has made Prayer our Duty by commanding it; but if he had denied us the Favour of coming unto him, we ſhould have been miſerable Creatures. It ſhould be thought by us a very great Favour to be permitted to approach his ſacred Majeſty, eſpecially when we may aſk what reaſonable, and lawful Bleſſing we will, in his *Son's* Name, and he is ready to grant it. To be backward to Prayer, is therefore adding the greateſt *Folly* to the greateſt *Diſobedience*.

Pray particularly for Light to diſcover, unto what worldly Object your Affections inordinately cleave, and lament before God, your Want of Love to himſelf, and your Weakneſs, and Wickedneſs in loving any Thing better. Earneſtly deſire him a thouſand Times, to take your Affections from all earthly Things, and fix them on himſelf; then will he purify them in a proper Manner, ſo will they flow back again to every Creature in its proper Order after God. And I entreat you, O my dear Creature, reſt not till you are filled with all the Fullneſs of God; that ſo *as your outward Man decayeth, your inward Man may be renewed Day by Day.*

There is yet another Way by which you may hinder the mortifying, and ſweet Influence of the Spirit, viz. by not letting your *Light ſhine before Men, that they ſeeing your good Works may glorify your Father which is in Heaven.* The moſt acceptable Way of *confeſſing*, and *praiſing Chriſt*, is by a *holy* Converſation. This is the moſt convincing to the wicked, and moſt edifying to the Children of God. May *God Almighty* give you Grace to practice theſe Hints, then will the Incumbrances of your Family, and the Afflictions of your Body, ſit eaſy upon you, nay will all work together for your good, and your Happineſs will be ſuch, as I continually pray for.——Time fails.

I am, with much Affection,
your very faithful Friend, &c.

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LETTER LIX.

My dear Friend, *Nov. 16th, 1760.*

THE two Queſtions you aſk in your laſt, are very weighty, and deſerve to be duely conſidered

" Do you, *now*, believe you love GOD with " all your HEART?" " Are you nothing aſhamed " among the *Oppoſers* of this glorious Truth?"

If I can anſwer to the former, I certainly can to the latter: For I could not love GOD with *all* my Heart, if I was aſhamed of this, or any Goſpel Truth; and if the latter as neceſſarily includes the former, I can anſwer heartily in the affirmative to both. I know not that I have, in the leaſt, been aſhamed of the Doctrine of CHRISTIAN PERFECTION, nor of profeſſing my humble Confidence in CHRIST, of my unfeigned Love unto Him, nor of my Belief that He *had* and *would* ſave me from Sin. And with regard to the preſent State of Mind I am in, tho' I have been variouſly tried from every Quarter, from pretended Friends, and profeſs'd Enemies, and from the Prince of Darkneſs, yet my Heart ſtands faſt believing *in*, cleaving conſtantly *unto*, and ardently loving the LORD JESUS. He is the ſole *Monarch* of my devoted Soul. I deſire nothing beſide Him: I have His loving, ſweet, and powerful Preſence generally with me, and when He is not ſo *ſenſibly* and *delightfully* preſent, I am in an Agony of Prayer, and ceaſe not 'till He returns; at the ſame Time I can ſay from my Heart, *thy Will be done.* This is the Language of my *naked* Heart.

" Oh! 'tis Hell from *Thee* to part,
" Preſs me cloſer to *Thy* Heart."

Since I came here I have had great Freedom, and Sweetneſs both in Preaching and Prayer. It is my *only* Deſign, and Delight to do my SAVIOUR's *Work* and *Will*. This I do at preſent in ſome ſmall Degree; but I cannot tell you how much I long to love GOD more abundantly than ever I did, that my Obedience flowing from Love, may be extenſive as my Powers, and delightful to my Soul. And yet I have already, very frequently, ſuch Love to JESUS CHRIST, it is ſo ſhed abroad in my Heart, that it fills my Soul with heavenly Comfort, and makes me ready to lay down my Life for CHRIST, or the Brethren.

I think this is a ſhort ſketch of the Situation of my Mind, as near as I know it. I ſhould be glad if you would favour me with the beſt Advice and Help you can give me.

I remember the happy Moments we once enjoyed, with Gratitude to GOD, and Affection to you: And if ever Providence ſhall indulge us with a Return of the ſame Opportunities, it will be our Duty to give Thanks, and I heartily pray we may have Wiſdom from GOD to make the beſt Uſe of them we poſſibly can.

You know it was not my conſtitutional, or beſetting Sin by Nature, furiouſly, and ſuddenly to reſent thoſe who oppoſed me; neither am I in much Danger from that Quarter yet: I am in vaſtly more Danger from thoſe who love me, and ſo think, and ſpeak too well of me. Delicate Praiſe, nicely adminiſtered, is hard to withſtand:

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It ſteals imperceptibly into the Heart, and does Miſchief, before the unwary Perſon ſuſpects any Harm. Yet even from this doth the LORD preſerve me, with much Application unto Him.

There are ſeveral Perſons here, who are deeply ſenſible of the Neceſſity of an entire Change of the Tempers and Diſpoſitions of their Souls, in order to their glorifying GOD on Earth, in a holy Converſation; and their being capable of being in His Preſence for ever hereafter. They now perceive their grand *Miſtake* lay in this, in thinking, that altho' ſuch a full Renewal of Soul, in the Image, and Likeneſs of CHRIST, might be neceſſary to Eternal Glory, yet that GOD would effect it before He removed them from this Life. Too *great*, or rather too *falſe* a Dependance on *this*, betrayed them into *preſent* Indifference. And it is to be feared, this is *too* common a Caſe. The holy Scriptures bid us *fight*, and *wreſtle*, and *run*; *to uſe all Diligence to make our Calling, and Election ſure:* And when we do *this*, we may ſafely leave the Time *when*, and the Manner *how*, GOD will accompliſh His great Work *in us*, to His ſovereign Will. But when we relax our Earneſtneſs, upon a miſtaken Preſumption of our being made *Holy ſometime*, we are in the Way to *foul* Apoſtacy, and not in the Way to *final* Salvation. From *this*, and *all* the Devices of Satan, good LORD preſerve thy People, and my dear Friend in particular.

I am, with much Affection

Your unworthy Brother.

LETTER LX.

My very dear Friend, *July* 20, 1760.

IT is now Sunday Evening, and after the Labours of another Sabbath, I am weak and weary, but in a happy Situation of Mind, and a very good Humor, going to write to my Friend. 'Tis to be hoped I ſhall make ſome amends in this, for my Short-comings in the laſt. It is true, I was not overcome of Openneſs, and Expreſſions of Freedom, yet the LORD knoweth, I had not, neither have I any Thing at preſent, in my Heart toward you, but Love, and good Will. I believe I have very few ſuch Friends. I heartily deſire our Friendſhip may be continued, and our Uſefulneſs to each other increaſed much more than ever. I think it is founded on a ſure Baſis, the *Love of* GOD. And I doubt not but it will continue through this Life, and be renewed in diſtant Worlds, to continue to all Eternity.

My Meaning, with Regard to particular Friendſhip, was this: We may deſire the Favour, and Help of one, or more Chriſtian Friends, and for the Sake of the ſpiritual Profit we expect from them, we may *do*, and *forego* many Things to continue in their *Eſteem*, without betraying Pride, a Want of Humility, or ſeeking the Honour which cometh of Men: But we cannot indulge a Deſire of *Eſteem* and *Favour* from People in *general*; eſpecially when our Deſire is warm and importunate, and *Favour* and *Eſteem* the *End* of our Purſuit, without diſcovering an unmortified Affection to the Things of this World. There is no Good,

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or Ill in Men thinking highly, or meanly of me, farther than I am enabled to do *leſs* or *more Good* unto them, or receive *leſs* or *more Good* from them. If they think me the beſt Saint on Earth, it does not make me at all *better*, it may make me abundantly *worſe*, if I learn to think more highly of myſelf, than I ought to think thereby: On the other Hand, if they think me an ungodly Hypocrite, or an incarnate Devil, it does not make me either more unholy, or unhappy, if I am not angry thereat. Let us always conſider ourſelves, neither *more* or *leſs*, than we are before GOD, and it will cure us of this Diſeaſe.

Your Meaſure of doing Good, may not always be adjuſted by your *Deſire* of it, but by your *Power* to do it. Your Deſire may exceed your Circumſtances, and if followed, would involve you in *Evils* which would over-balance the Good. However, there are very few who err on this Hand; and where they do, a little Diſcretion will put them into the Way again.

I have, this Morning, juſt been preaching from Heb. 13, xiii. xiv. *Let us therefore go forth unto Him without the Camp, bearing His Reproach. For here have we no continuing City, but we ſeek one to come.* How indiſpenſibly neceſſary, thought I, is it, that I ſhould be fully determined to take this Advice myſelf, who am going to enforce it upon others. I lifted up my Heart to Him, from whom I receive every good Gift I need, and he gave me Power to reſolve upon this great Enterprize. I went forth, and exhorted my Brethren to the ſame, and, (if I knew my Heart) was as willing

to go before them, as to have them follow me. So I now look upon myſelf, as enliſted under the Banner, and among the *Sufferers* of CHRIST. I cannot deſert this Poſt, or fly from any Danger I am lawfully called unto, without ſhameful Diſhonour to my Profeſſion, and great Prejudice to my Soul. But I hope to ſtand in the Might of my glorious CAPTAIN.

My Soul was very much affected with joyful Expectation, when I came to conſider, "We "have no continuing City here, but we ſeek one "to come." It put new Life into all my Powers, and Courage into my Heart. Said I, am I in queſt of a *City which has Foundations, whoſe Builder, and Maker is* GOD; which has *no Need of a Temple, the* LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, *and the* LAMB, *being the Temple of it; nor of the Sun, and Moon, the Glory of* GOD, *and of the* LAMB *being the Light thereof*; how can my Heart languiſh? How very tranſient is the Seaſon of *Reproach*, and then I ſhall be advanced to durable *Honour*; how very ſhort the Time of *Suffering*, and then I ſhall be raiſed to Everlaſting *Happineſs*. Oh! my dear Friend, what a Bleſſing it is, that we are only *Sojourners* here: I would not have otherwiſe for a thouſand Worlds.

I cannot neglect to give you ſome little Account of the undeſerved Favours, I receive from GOD daily. My Cup of Conſolation *frequently runs over*, and my Springs of Comfort never *ceaſe altogether*.

"So many wonderous Gleams of Light,
"And gentle Ardors from above,

"Have

" Have made me ſit like Seraph bright,
" *Some* Moments on a Throne of Love:
" Oh! what is Virtue, why had I,
" Who am ſo *low*, a Taſte ſo *high*?"

I ſay, and *ſay* it from my *Heart*, before my MAKER, who knoweth me better than I know myſelf, unto all-created Good, thou art not my GOD: Thy Preſence, with the Abſence of my Beloved, would be a State too intolerable to ſuſtain: The Enjoyment of thee, without the Fruition of the bleſſed JESUS, would be a Deſtitution, not to be born. When I ſee my dear Redeemer, and the Beauty of His Grace and Holineſs, and the Glories of His Kingdom, all that the World calls *great* or *good*, appears as nothing in my Eyes: When His *Love* is ſhed abroad in my Heart, as it uſually is, in ſome conſiderable Degree, I can wink all-created Beauty into Deformity, and all ſenſitive Enjoyments loſe their Reliſh.

" LORD! I love Thee, thou knoweſt, who
" knows all Things; elſe why do all the Facul-
" ties of my Soul *thus* clamour after Thee, and
" cleave unto Thee? If I do not love Thee,
" why would I *die* rather than offend Thee?
" Why do I fear *Hell* leſs than thy *Frown*, and
" deſire *Heaven* leſs than thy *Smile*? Why do I
" continually long more for Thee, than for my
" daily Food; and why is all Company a Burden
" unto me, which in the leaſt keep me from con-
" verſing *with*, and delighting myſelf *in* Thee?
" My LORD tell me, if *theſe* are not Signs that I
" love Thee."

Thus I often plead with, and appeal unto my dear Redeemer; and I cannot expreſs how much I deſire to be nearer unto Him, and more like Him. Come, thou happy Moment, which ſhall take away this painful Diſtance between me, and my Beloved. My Eyes ſee it at a Diſtance; it comes upon the Wings of Time, it will ſhortly arrive: *Let Patience*, O my Soul, *have her perfect Work*, and *the Deſire will come, which will be a Tree of Life*. Help me, help me, my good Friend, by your Prayers; and may *the* GOD *of all Grace*, make His gracious Face to ſhine upon you, enrich you with all heavenly Treaſure, and fill you with all the Life of GOD; that like a ſtately Veſſel, riding before a proſperous Gale, you may return from the hazardous, but well-conducted Voyage, into the *Haven* of Everlaſting Reſt. So *unfeignedly* prays,

Your affectionate Brother,
and inviolable Friend.

LETTER LXI.

My very dear Friend, *Aug.* 9, 1760.

I HAVE but very little Time to write in, it being already near the Poſt-Hour. Paſſing over the formal Ceremonies of receiving yours, &c. let me tell you, I am much concerned for your Want of Health, and ſhould be abundantly more, was it not, that I ſtedfaſtly believe, that all Things ſhall Work together for your good.

I thank GOD my Health has lately been a little better than uſual. My Soul is ſolidly happy. I hunger,

hunger, and thirſt after Righteouſneſs, and I believe the LORD will fulfill my largeſt Deſires. I wiſh I was more abundantly humble, and watchful. If I had a thouſand Times as much Strength, and ten thouſand Tongues, and all Eternity before me, I ſhould think all *vaſtly* too little to praiſe my Redeemer with. Help me to praiſe Him; and pray unto Him; that I may be more faithful, and fruitful, unto Death.

M. D. died on *Thurſday* was Fortnight, very happy, in full Aſſurance of Faith, with a *clean* Heart, and clear Proſpect of Eternal Glory. I preached her Funeral Sermon on the *Sunday* following, to a large Congregation, from Gen. 49. xviii. *I have waited for thy Salvation, O* LORD. And laſt *Sunday* I performed the like Service for Mrs. H. There were a far larger Company, than before. After Sermon, we bore her Relicks to the Church Yard, attended with ſeveral thouſand *Hearers*, and an incredible Multitude of affected *Spectators*, while we ſung the Praiſes of the LORD, and the Happineſs of thoſe who die in Him. *So ſolemn a Sight, I never ſaw before!* LORD, when ſhall I be the Occaſion, and Subject of ſuch a Solemnity? The Portion of Scripture ſhe made Choice of for this Occaſion, was the Language of her Mind, and the Picture of her State, in the latter Part of her Life, and at her Death. Pſalm 119. lxxv. lxxvi. *I know, O* LORD, *that thy Judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulneſs haſt afflicted me. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful Kindneſs be for my Comfort, according to thy Word unto thy Servant.*

Time

Time flies, and the Poſt cannot ſtay: Eternity is juſt at Hand, and the World going to conclude its ſlabbard Tale. The LORD give us a ſafe, and ſpeedy Flight, "where Change ſhall be no more." Adieu. Adieu.

LETTER LXII.

My dear Friend, *May 23d*, 1761.

I Sincerely rejoice on Mr. D——'s account, and I hope by this Time I may alſo congratulate you on account of your having entered into that happy Land of *Uprightneſs*, which is always favoured with GOD's peculiar Smile; where he keeps his own in *perfect* Peace, and everlaſting Reſt. May you ſweetly abide in JESU's Love, and be filled with his abundant Fullneſs.

You bid me tell you what I think of you. I will ſpeak freely: I believe you are not far from that *Love which caſteth out all* ſlaviſh *Fear*. The LORD hath arreſted you, and made you a Priſoner of Hope: You are, for a Time detained in the Wilderneſs, but your LORD will, with his own Arm deliver you. Be *ſtrong*, be *bold*, *fear* not, JESUS the Captain of your Salvation goes before you. He *will* ſend forth Judgment unto Victory; and deſtroy all your Enemies. When he hath made you *all fair*, then will he *behold no Spot in you*. You ſhall as perfectly bear the Image of the heavenly *Adam*, as you have born that of the earthly one. Your SAVIOUR *has*, *does*, and *will* bleſs you for evermore. Yea he will keep you Night and Day, and water you every Moment.

But

But remember this, as your LORD was *a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with Grief*, therefore muſt you, as long as you abide in this earthly Tabernacle, drink of the ſame *Cup* your SAVIOUR *drank of*, and, leſs or more, *be baptized with the Baptiſm, which he was baptized with. Every one that is perfect, ſhall be as his Maſter.* You are called to be conformed to a *Suffering*, as well as a *glorified* SAVIOUR: And muſt have Fellowſhip with him in his *Suffering*, that you may partake of his *Glory*. Through much Tribulation *all* the Saints enter into the Kingdom of GOD, and *eſpecially* thoſe who enter *deepeſt* into the *Spirit* of it on Earth, and *higheſt* into the *Glories* of it in Heaven. Yet bleſſed are *they* who follow CHRIST in the *painfully* pleaſant Path of Regeneration, *and abide with him in all his Temptations.* Their *Crown* ſhall be as much diſtinguiſhed for its *Brightneſs* in *Heaven*; as their *Sufferings* were diſtinguiſhed for their *Blackneſs* on *Earth*. The Way of the Croſs, is the ſure Way to eternal GLORY.

Do not think that a bare Freedom from evil Tempers, is the higheſt CHRISTIAN PERFECTION you can poſſibly arrive at; but aim at *Perfecting Holineſs in the Fear of GOD.* Neither expect, when you ſhall come into this State, to appear in your own Eyes, a *fine*, *wiſe*, and *glorious* Creature, No: Expect to be like a little Child, that has to learn to walk, and almoſt every Thing to aſk of its Parents. Expect to be aſtoniſhed, as well at your *Ignorance*, *Simplicity*, *littleneſs*, and *Meanneſs*, as at the Infinite *Bleſſing* beſtowed upon you,

you, and the inconceivable *Change* wrought in you. An unutterable *Depth* of *Humility*, *Teachableneſs*, and *Mildneſs*, is the ſupreme *Height* of that PERFECTION, which none can conceive but thoſe who arrive at it.

You cannot follow your Maſter, and fight under your Captain, unleſs you are cloathed with *all the Armour of GOD*. And then you will find many, and hard Battles to fight; but Victory, ſure Victory will enſue. Do you know *walk in White* with CHRIST? If you do, praiſe your loving LORD, and look to JESUS every Moment. Go forward, and may the LORD teach you by his bleſſed Spirit, and refreſh you by his Love. If not, now dare to believe, lay hold on the Hope ſet before you; the glorious Hope of *perfect Love*. JESUS will give you all you ſtand in need of. The LORD will bury you in his Grave, that you with him may riſe. Then, when he who is your Life may appear, you alſo may appear with him, and be for ever with the LORD. Even now behold the fair Beauty of the Redeemer, lie at the Feet of the ever *living*, ever *loving* JESUS: Let your Soul reſt in his mighty Hand, that he may form and mould it into his own Image. He waiteth and wanteth to be gracious, cleave unto him, and loſe yourſelf in him.

The LORD does work, and who ſhall hinder him? A Week ſince, a few Friends came to ſee me, we joined together in Prayer, particularly for *Nancy*'s Deliverance; the LORD poured upon us the Spirit of Grace, and of Supplication, in which we continued an Hour and an Half: The

LORD,

LORD, the great Deliverer, heard and anſwered us. He gave her the Deſire of her Heart. Theſe were ſome of her Expreſſions. "LORD, I do "believe! My Soul hangs on Thee! Thou wilt "ſeal me to the Day of Redemption! O bleſſed "JESUS, thou wilt keep my Soul for ever! Glory "be to Thee!" In ſuch Phraſes as theſe ſhe abounded for a conſiderable Time: She ſince remains happy. Our GOD is indeed, a GOD that heareth Prayer. Whatever we aſk according to his Will, he will do it for his own Name's Sake.

I bleſs the LORD, I feel my Soul lying ſafe in his mighty Hand, and I am kept in perfect Peace. While I am in a Multitude, my Soul is retired with JESUS from the noiſe and ſhew thereof. Yet how little is that I have received, in Compariſon of that I ſee before me, and at which I aim. Grace is of a growing and increaſing Nature, and wherever the Incumberances of Self-Indulgence, Pride, Evil-Deſire, Unbelief, &c. are cleared away, it will not fail to ripen into *Perfection*. Many, it may be, have received a larger Stock than I have, but it is my Duty, and I believe, ever will be my Care and Pleaſure, to be thankful for what I have, and to pray for what I want. I want to have my Life more *ſenſibly* hid with CHRIST in GOD; and to *believe*, *love*, and *obey* in a *fuller* Manner, and *larger* Meaſure, than I do at preſent. Yet a little, a *very* little while, and *Eternity* will be here, and land us ſafe in the wiſhed for Port. We ſhall meet in the Realms of endleſs Day. We ſhall then ſee the glorious Face of our *beloved* JESUS, without a Vail. The

painful

painful Diſtance ſhall ſubſiſt no more. We ſhall, *even* we ſhall behold him on his great white Throne, and delightfully caſt our Crowns at his Feet, and *hail* the LAMB who died to redeem us unto GOD, in endleſs Songs, which Angels cannot learn. I am his by twice ten Thouſand Tyes, which bind me to His Heart. He is *my* GOD, and *my* ALL. Is He not your GOD? Surely He is. Do you not *love* Him with *all* your Heart? *He is altogether lovely. Behold the Lamb of* GOD *which taketh away the Sin of the World.* Can you hold out any longer? Will you *yet* refuſe to give Him your Heart, who has bought it with Blood Divine? O! now let redeeming Love make an *intire* Conqueſt of your yielding Heart.

I am, your affectionate Siſter,
in the dear LORD JESUS.

LETTER LXIII.

My dear, dear Friend, *Sept.* 2, 1760.

I Received yours, and am heartily glad, and unfeignedly thankful to hear you ſpeak in ſo heavenly a *Strain.* I think a joyful Spirit lives, and breathes in every Line. Thanks be to my GOD, who is All-ſufficient to fill the largeſt Deſires of our immortal Souls. Are our Deſires of *Holineſs, boundleſs?* So are the Promiſes of GOD; and boundleſs alſo is the *Promiſer.* Who can find out the Almighty to Perfection? His Being is an Ocean of Infinities, where all our Thoughts are drowned; a Fountain of living Waters, where

our

our Thirſt is quenched, and our Souls refreſhed; an inexhauſtible *Store*, where all our Wants are ſupplied; and a bleſſed Centre, where all our Wiſhes, Deſires, and Affections meet.

O! how I long to riſe higher into his divine Image, and ſink lower into the humble Mind of Chriſt. Lord, when ſhall I appear before thee? What ſhall I do to ſet forth thy Praiſe? If I had ten thouſand Tongues, I would praiſe thee with them all: If I had ten thouſand Hearts, I would love thee with them all: If I had ten thouſand Bodies, I would gladly ſacrifice them all to thy Service. O! bleſſed Jeſus, what can poſſibly be too dear for thee, who has not ſpared thy precious Blood but has ſhed it freely for ſo unworthy a Creature! **My Demerit exalts thy boundleſs Grace.**

Thy *Love* ſent Thee into my Nature, and the World wherein I dwell; and ſhall it not draw my Heart into thy Image and Glory? Be gone, ye earthly Trifles, and every creature Enjoyment, which would detain me from my Lord's Embrace: You ſhall not flatter my Affections; you could not recompence my Loſs. O Lord, thy Name is as Ointment poured forth, more exquiſitely delightful than the richeſt Perfumes of the Apothecaries, or the Powders of the Merchants, *yea*, than the moſt finiſhed Pleaſures of Senſe. How ſweet it is to love JESUS! Oh! that I had a more *ſimple*, *humble*, *loving*, and *teachable* Heart. I long to be *all* like Chriſt, for the Love I have unto Him.

But I forgot myſelf, that I am writing to one who knows Jeſus, and his Charms better than *I* do. My dear Friend, teach me how to *know* and *love* him better. I have had ſome happy Interviews with S. R. which put me in mind of the Yorkſhire Times: Lord, when it is good for us, thou wilt reſtore and repeat them; till then the Abſence of them will be for the beſt. Farewell for ever in the ſaid LORD JESUS.

LETTER LXIV.

My dear Brother,

IT adminiſters Matter of Joy, and Thankfulneſs to me, and all who look upon themſelves as Stangers, and Pilgrims, here below; to hear that one, and another, is landed Safe upon that happy Shore, where the wicked ceaſe from troubling; and the uneaſy are at reſt! What is there worth living for? To die to behold his bleſſed Face without a Veil, is a Bleſſing indeed!

There we ſhall ſee his Face and never never Sin. There from the Rivers of his Grace, drink endleſs Pleaſures I pray God this Diſpenſation may have effect upon you. May the great Teacher of Iſrael teach you; and may I be a ſimple Learner at your Feet.

I find it is with ſome Difficulty I write to you on any Subject ſave that of deſiring your Help and Advice for my own Soul. I abhor myſelf in Duſt and Aſhes. I am Weak as helpleſs Infancy. I find the deſire of my Soul is to gain by every Loſs, to keep my Eye on the Mark. I would

chuſe

chuſe the moſt excellent Way. I deſire ever to ſee God in all, and all in God. I would be ſo fully certified of the Wiſdom and Goodneſs of God in every Diſpenſation, as to ſay from the Ground of my Heart, "Thy Will be done." Let us be thankful for the Meaſure of theſe Graces we find in ourſelves, and preſs forwards till we experience all that the Lord has promiſed to give.

Let me give you a Hint with Reſpect to your Children. You know the Lord hath entruſted you with their Souls as well as their Bodies: It ſhould be Matter of great Moment with you to take heed into whoſe Family they are caſt.

The Lord be with you on your Journey: If Providence ſhould caſt your Lot in our Circuit I believe many Hearts wou'd rejoice. Remember me affectionately to all Friends.

From your affectionate Siſter in Chriſt, R. H.

LETTER LXV.

Much eſteemed Friend,

I Am unwilling to neglect this Opportunity of letting thee hear from me, although I have little to ſay concerning myſelf.

I ſee the Beauty of Holineſs, and I long to attain to it, but alaſs, I am ſlow of Heart, I feel my Unbelief keeps me from the glorious Liberty of the Children of God. Yet I have a full Aſſurance, the Work of Salvation is carrying on in my Soul; and at the moſt barren Times, I cannot doubt, but I ſhall Witneſs full Redemption, in

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to the Blood of Jeſus! I am much tempted to put the Day afar off, and give up my Confidence, and to ſay how is poſſible for me to attain ſo great Salvation? But as I wait upon the Lord, I find my Strength renewed in him; and I am fully convinced his Grace is ſufficient for me. O! that my Eye was continually Looking up to Jeſus; For when I keep cloſe to him, he confirms me in my Belief, that it is his Will I ſhould be perfect. Indeed my Friend I meet with many Interruptions in my Way, but I long for that Day to come, which ſhall burn as an Oven; that neither Root, nor Branch, of Unrighteouſneſs may remain in me. Fain would I give up my whole Soul, and Body to the Service of my God, that I may dwell in his Houſe for ever. O! pray for me that I faint not, but that in due Time, I may reap that Salvation, which at preſent I ſtedfaſtly believe my Saviour has purchaſed for me.

Great Peace do I enjoy, and at particular Times my Lord communicates much of his Love to me: He ſeems to deal with me as a Parent with a ſickly Child: He diſcovers to me what is hurtful and ſuffers me not to feel his Anger: But I yet feel the Depth of Ingratitude in me; for ſurely if I lov'd him as I ought, my Heart would be filled with Thankſgiving, and my Lips would continually ſpeak of his Praiſe.

I remember in my firſt Letter to thee, I obſerved if thou could'ſt ſhew me a Religion more holy, or more lovely than our own Principles lead to, I wou'd readily embrace it. So far I muſt confeſs;

It

It has pleaſed God through thy miniſtry, to give me a more perfect View of the glorious Law of Liberty, than I had ever conceived before; yet he has not in the leaſt convinced me, that any outward Ordinance I have not yet complied with could be acceptable to him, but ſhews me my whole Heart is what he requires of me; and if I may ſo ſay, I am more eſtabliſh'd in primitive Quakeriſm, than I ever was in my Life before. My Heart is enlarged. My Faith is encreaſed. Often after hearing you, my Soul has been filled as with new Wine: But I could not remain long here. My own unprofitable thoughts have return'd upon me; and indeed at preſent, theſe ſeems to be the greateſt Enemies I have to encounter with. O! when ſhall I be able to ſay? I no longer live, but Chriſt liveth in me.

I can truly ſay; all the Enjoyments, and Friendſhips of this World appear as Vanity in Compariſon of the Love of God in Chriſt Jeſus. Yet I fear I ſtill love my own eaſe too well; and I know the Fear of Man is not overcome in me; but I truſt my God will cleanſe the Temple of my Heart from all Idols, and take up his Abode in me. For this great Salvation my Soul hungers and thirſts.

You have provok'd me to good Works; & if I was never to hear from you more, if I am faithful to the Gift received, I know I ſhall be a more living Member in the Church; for I can now declare to others, what God has done for my Soul.

I cannot help deſiring to ſee thee, or thy Brother,

thers, and I hope Providence will permit me to hear one of you a few Times before I go into H——ſhire, and if thou haſt Leaſure, I ſhou'd take it as a Favour to have a few Lines from thee, whilſt I remain in this barren Place, Friend C—— will convey them to me.

May the great God of Truth, bleſs thee in all thy Undertakings. May'ſt thou dwell in the ſecret Place of the moſt High; and abide under the Shadow of the Almighty; is the ſincere Deſire of thy real, tho'

Unworthy Friend, S. P.

LETTER LXVI.

INDEED, my good Friend, I want much to hear of thy Recovery, and was in Hopes I ſhould have had a Line from thee. My Deſires for thy Welfare are ſtrong, altho' I have not wrote to thee. The Work in me goes on but ſlowly; yet my LORD doth not with-hold his Comforts; but I dare not judge of my State, from what I feel of his Comforts only, but from what I overcome alſo.

Peace with God, thro' our LORD Jeſus Chriſt, is continued to me, and I much long to be fill'd with the Fulneſs of his Love. At Times, ſince I have been in this Place, my Soul hath rejoiced in GOD my Saviour, and I have had a Witneſs in myſelf, That I am where his Providence has placed me: Yet I muſt confeſs, I have not ſo frequently feaſted in his Preſence, as when I had the Privi-

lege

lege of hearing you; but I believe He never will forſake me: He is a Friend which ſticketh cloſer than a Brother; and I am often made to think, If I was in a Dungeon, or Deſart, I ſhould be happy in the Enjoyment of Him. If He was to take his Spirit from me, and all temporal Joys were mine, I know I ſhould be wretched without Him whom my Soul loveth.

I fully, and conſtantly find, nothing without Holineſs can make me Happy; and nothing with it, can make me Miſerable! I feel no unholy Deſire in me, but I often beg, That my Heart may be ſearch'd as with a Candle, that I may not deceive myſelf, or others.

When I am writing to others, I moſtly feel ſuch divine Comfort, and heavenly Joy break in upon my Soul, that I cannot forbear confeſſing how good my LORD is to me; but when this Fervency of Spirit is abated, I am ready to reflect upon myſelf, and ſay, perhaps I ſhall make my Friends think I have attain'd to more than I really have. I wou'd fain be without Guile. I often wiſh I cou'd diſcover my Heart as it is; Lord, ſhew me the Depth of Evil, that is in me, is my ſincere Cry. The Things of this World, give me no Delight. At times, I ſeem as one who has nothing to do with them; and I long to get Home, that I may enjoy my Beloved without Intermiſſion; for it ſeems to me, as if the End of my Days wou'd be a Time of great Rejoicing. And yet, when I conſider how many have taſted of the good Word of Life, and long'd as I do to

dwell with JESUS, and have nevertheleſs forſook Him, it fills me with ſtrong Deſires, that He wou'd ſpeedily finiſh his Work, and take me to Himſelf. But I know this is wrong; I ought to have no Deſire, but that his Will may be fulfill'd in me. Surely it is his Will, That I ſhou'd be without Carefulneſs; therefore, I truſt He will preſerve me from the Cares of this World, and in his own Time prepare my Soul for his Abode. It ſeems to me, as if He was emptying me, in order to fill me with the Riches of his Love; but alas! Self is ſtill alive: I feel, and abhor it; for I know I cannot enter into *Canaan* until this grand Enemy is ſlain. When I think on what I once was, a great Change ſeems to be wrought in me; but when I compare what I am, with what I ought to be, I find the Work is but begun! I am fill'd with Admiration, at the Goodneſs of GOD to me: Of all his Servants, I ſeem to do the leaſt for his Glory; and yet his Banner over me is LOVE! O! that I may be faithful. If Works were to juſtify us, Where muſt I appear? LORD! thou knoweſt none can love thee, but thoſe who deſire to ſerve thee; and thou accepteſt of the little Mite which is offered up in pure Love to thee; and if I abide in thee, thou wilt purge me, That I may bring forth Fruit to thy Praiſe.

I often think, If it was poſſible for an unregenerate Soul to feel the Happineſs our Maſter beſtows on his Followers, ſurely they would forſake all, and follow Him; and no longer ſeek Happineſs in the Pleaſures, or Profits of this World,

but

but confeſs, no Bliſs comparable to the Love of Jesus!

I have been conſtrain'd (ſince I have been in this Place) to vindicate your Doctrines: I ſincerely wiſh, That all who hear you, would do you the Juſtice not to condemn what they do not underſtand.

In the Love and Fellowſhip of the Holy Ghost, my Soul tenderly ſalutes thee.

I remain thy unworthy Friend. S. P.

LETTER LXVII.

Eſteemed Friend,

REmaining under a living Senſe of the Good receiv'd by thy Miniſtry, obliges me to think it my Duty to let thee hear from me.

I ſtill keep the promis'd Land in Sight, but move ſlowly towards it. I would gladly be found entire—lacking Nothing. I find a longing Deſire in my Heart, to be made a Partaker of the *Divine Nature*. The Enemy of my Soul does not make War againſt me, by ſtirring up any of my Paſſions, but by ſtriving to lull me aſleep, that he may rob me of mine Inheritance, by cauſing me to reſt ſhort of the Promiſe; but I firmly believe, that nothing will prevail with me, to leave off wreſtling, till I receive the Bleſſing.

I long to know the Will of my Heavenly Father more perfectly, that all my Time may be ſpent to his Glory. The Profits and Pleaſures of this World, appear in my Eyes, altogether lighter

than Vanity. I think I may ſafely ſay, my Treaſure is in Heaven. My Affections are not ſet on Things below. I am ſure, the ſtrongeſt Deſire of my Soul, is, That JESUS would make his Abode with me, and fulfill his Will in me. I feel no other Deſire at preſent, as to my Temporal Affairs, but that Providence may order them moſt for my *Spiritual Advantage*. One Thing have I deſired of the LORD; That will I ſeek after: That I may dwell in the Houſe of the LORD, all the Days of my Life; to behold the Beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his Temple. I have found a great Change in the Fruit of my Imagination, ſince I firſt heard you; which encourages me to hope, I ſhall witneſs the Thoughts of my Heart to be good continually: When this bleſſed Change comes, I ſhall be at Reſt; for "LORD, thou "knoweſt my Deſire is to awake with thy Likeneſs. Haſten the Time, I beſeech thee; for "nothing can ſatisfy me, but thy having full Dominion over me! O! quicken me with thy "Spirit, that I may call upon thee." I know it muſt be my Corruptions, which hinder me from conſtantly enjoying my GOD. O! may I receive Faith, to overcome all Things. Our SAVIOUR bids us *be of good Chear*; *He has overcome the World*; and I believe, all that follow Him, ſhall obtain the Victory. I know my LORD often breaks Bread to my hungry Soul, and hands forth to me the Wine of the Kingdom. He himſelf creates in my Heart, a grateful Remembrance of his Love to me, by pouring into my Soul *Thankſgiving* and Praiſe.

O! how

O! how ſweet, how glorious it is, when we open the Door of our Hearts, and the LORD OF LIFE comes and ſups with us? 'Tis impoſſible for me to tell thee, how unworthy I ſee myſelf of every Bleſſing I enjoy; yet feel ſuch Aſſurances of LOVE, ſuch divine Conſolation, as cauſes my Eyes often to overflow with Tears of Joy! How full of Bleſſings does my paſt Life appear to me now! Every bitter Cup I have drunk, I plainly ſee was a healthy Potion to my Soul! I felt the Drawings of my FATHER's LOVE from my very Infancy! His HOLY SPIRIT was ſtriving with me; and when I rebell'd, He brought me back, and baptiz'd me in the Water of Affliction, and then ſeal'd his pardoning Love to me. In my latter Days, He has brought me acquainted with his choiceſt Servants; increas'd my Faith by them; and given me a Promiſe, of dwelling in the *Land* which floweth with *Milk* and *Honey*.

Yet am I ſtill ungrateful, to this beſt of Benefactors! I know, I do not love Him as I ought; nor ſerve Him as I deſire. I find great Reluctance in reproving Sin; yet it grieves me when I behold it. I wou'd fain perſuade others (by being Holy in all Manner of Converſation) to ſeek after the Good which I enjoy. O! may I thus attain to be a Preacher of Righteouſneſs. I have often wiſh'd my Heart were laid open for all the World to behold it; for I am ſure, they wou'd ſee my Affections are not ſet upon it, nor any Thing in it.

I know every Deed, and every Thought muſt be brought to Light; and therefore I admire at

People's being ſo very much againſt confeſſing their Faults, one to another. I believe thoſe who keep ſtrictly to Truth, in telling their Experiences, do much Good to others, whether they are ſeeking the LORD, or otherwiſe; and I can therefore ſay, I have felt great Comfort, in telling others how the LORD deals with me.

I believe many of your Hearers wou'd find it more profitable for their own Souls, were they to wait upon the LORD before the Service begins; and *to feel after Him* all the Time, *if haply they may find Him.* O! may the LORD preſerve us from running into any Extreme, and give us a right Judgment in all Things.

I have ſeveral Times been with ſome of the Church of *England*, who meet together to diſcourſe about the Things of GOD. I ſhou'd be glad to know what Books thou woud'ſt adviſe ſeeking Souls to read; for it ſeems to me, that they know not how to make a right Choice for themſelves. I have found Comfort in converſing with them. I hope a true *Goſpel Miniſter* will ſoon be ſent unto them.

I meet with ſome who are ſeeking after Holineſs. One young Man, of our People, was convinc'd of his Need of it, by thee; and I hope we ſhall encourage one another to go on.

I believe thou haſt Reaſon for not letting me hear from thee; but I do not think it is to prevent my writing to thee, and therefore take this Freedom. I can truly ſay, I hold no Man's Perſon in Admiration; but I know 'tis the Will of my Father,

ther, That I ſhou'd highly eſteem thoſe in Love, whom He has made Inſtruments of Good to me; for which Reaſon, it wou'd be a refreſhing to me to hear of thy Welfare. I am ſure it is my fervent Deſire, that the People over whom the LORD has made you Overſeers, may become *a Church without Wrinkle or Spot*, that the Deſire of thy Soul may be ſatisfied. In the Fellowſhip of the HOLY GHOST,

I remain thy unworthy Friend. S. P.

LETTER LXVIII.

Dear Friend,

THY Letter I receiv'd, and have long thought to anſwer it. At Times, my Soul has been full of Love; but I have not had Opportunity to write to thee at thoſe Seaſons; yet I cannot refrain telling thee, I ſtill retain a lively Gratitude, a ſincere Thankfulneſs to the ALMIGHTY, for bringing me acquainted with you; and I earneſtly deſire, that I may not be a forgetful Hearer. I hope it has not only been a Bleſſing to my own Soul, but has diffus'd itſelf to others alſo. I find a conſtant Deſire to improve, not bury, the one Talent committed to me; not that I may receive any Praiſe; no, verily. I know I gain the Contempt of the World, by ſpending my Time with poor Sinners; for I already hear, That I ſay, and do Things that I never thought of: Yet, I earneſtly deſire I may be employ'd by the LORD's People, if but as a Hewer of Stone, or a Drawer of Water; for I plainly perceive no Member in his Church is t

ſtand idle; no Veſſel in his Houſe is to be uſeleſs. I deſire no extraordinary Gifts to glorify my FATHER: All my Wiſh is, That He would glorify Himſelf by me, in the Way and Manner He thinks beſt. There is no Bleſſing I ſo conſtantly, and fervently deſire, as Lowlineſs of Heart. Pride is the ſtrongeſt Hold, the Enemy of my Soul has in me: I abhor it moſt of all Sin, yet I oftener feel it ſtir in me than any other Evil whatever; but I know if I continue looking unto JESUS, I ſhall be more than Conqueror.

Several of our Friends have agreed to meet together, on Purpoſe to declare our Experiences freely to each other. Laſt Third Day, I felt a great Reluctance to go, hearing a Papiſt and ſeveral Strangers were to be there, on my Account. My Heart was very heavy, becauſe I thought I ſhould have nothing to ſay to them. I beſought the LORD, and He comforted me; and bleſſed be his Holy Name, He gave me Power to declare fully and ſimply, his Dealings with me; and I have Cauſe to believe his Bleſſing attended it. I went Home rejoicing.

The next Evening I went to a Society of Churchmen, which is kept at a Shoemaker's Houſe. They read and pray'd, and then concluded with ſinging. When they had done, I read a Letter of S——— D———'s to them, and gave them a Sermon on *Perfection*. Some of them are very loving to me, but others are bigoted againſt the Quakers, and (I believe) think I have ſome Deſign upon them. But I can truly ſay, I have no Party

to

to ſet up; I have no Deſire to promote any Thing amongſt them, beſides Holineſs. Poor Creatures, they are ignorant as yet; but the LORD does not deſpiſe the Day of ſmall Things.

At Times, I have full Aſſurance given me, That I ſhall be made Whole: The Day of my Redemption ſeems to draw near. At other Times, the happy Day ſeems to be far off.

I grow ſtronger, for I feel my own Weakneſs every Day! All Sin appears exceeding ſinful to me: I often think what Manner of Perſon I ought to be in all holy Converſation. O! that all your Hearers may be heartily concern'd to bring forth Fruit to the Glory of GOD; for I am ſure, unleſs we do, our Condemnation will be greater than theirs who deſpiſe us!

I find an entire Freedom, when I am writing to thy Brother, or thee. An unſpeakable Bleſſing it is to me, That my GOD has remov'd all *Party Religion* far from me. I cannot cry up what GOD *has* done, in Oppoſition to what He *is* doing: So long as we truly love our Head, CHRIST JESUS, I am ſure we ſhall love his Members, ſuppoſe our Judgment be not convinc'd of the Truth of every Opinion they hold.

I think I may ſay, If ever I heard the Goſpel preach'd in my Life, I did it lately by a poor Man, who came to viſit us. He earneſtly preſs'd us all to die to Sin, and live unto Righteouſneſs. O! that the LORD wou'd raiſe up more ſuch plain, honeſt Teachers, of a noble *Catholic Spirit*! Then ſhou'd we *proſper*.

I have this Day taſted how good the Lord is; he has refreſhed me with his preſence, but O! my Friend it is impoſſible for me to tell thee how much I long fully to enjoy him. If thy Buſineſs will admit, I ſhould be glad to hear from thee. In the Love of our dear Lord Jeſus I remain,

Thy Friend, S. P.

LETTER LXIX.

I Return my dear Friend many thanks for ſo ſoon anſwering my Letter. I hope I can bleſs God for his great Goodneſs to you; and it ſhall be my Prayer to my heavenly Father, that he would give you all that may conduce to make you happy in Life, eaſy and joyful at the approach of Death, and meet to partake of thoſe Pleaſures that are at his Right Hand for ever. Let us yield ourſelves unto God! I hope the Lord will give you Grace to ſtand firm to the Truth, unto the End. Indeed I have ever found it good to be on the Lord's Side: And though as poor, faint-hearted, blundering a Creature as ever was kept in the Way; yet I bleſs the Name of the Lord, who has not ſuffered me wilfully and wickedly to depart from him.

I ſee many running the heavenly Race, and I would gladly run with them; but alas! I find myſelf too weak to keep Pace with them: Yet bleſſed be God, I am reſolved by his Grace, that though I cannot *run* with them, I will *creep* after them; and I hope ſhortly to ſit at their Feet in the new Jeruſalem. But I cannot be content to have my Friend take *my* Pace: I would have him

a *Runner*: May the Lord grant he may *be clad with Zeal as with a Cloke*. I believe you ſee many Things at preſent that might amuſe a carnal Mind, there are many ſmooth Ways to Hell: How dificult it is to avoid them all! What Care and Prayer does it require!

" The Path of Virtue far more rugged is,
" But Oh! it leads to everlaſting Bliſs!

My beſt Love to all Friends,

I am, &c. E. G.

LETTER LXX.

Dear * * *,

GOD is Love: Chriſt's Yoke is eaſy. If the Lord is our Shepherd we ſhall want nothing. Shall *we* ever meet in Heaven? I hope we ſhall. Yet a few Moments more, and *he that ſhall come, will come, and will not tarry*. We ſhall ſhortly behold him without a Veil. That awful Day will ſurely come. It will little avail us then what Opinion we are of; but what we *really are*. Lord ſearch, and try me, that I may not be confounded at that Day.

I have changed my Place of Abode, and find many new Trials; but, indeed, the Lord is good to me, and his Grace will be ſufficient for me. We have nothing to fear but Sin, if we have given ourſelves to the Lord. I fear the Love of many waxes cold; but let us be humble and watchful. Devote yourſelf to the Lord, and then you cannot expect too much from him: He will far out do your higheſt Expectations. God is a tried Friend; but

but let us prepare for Temptations. When ſhall we leave all for Chriſt? When ſhall we glory in Nothing but his Croſs? When we are as wiſe as we ought to be, we ſhall. O Lord, teach us this bleſſed Leſſon. I think I do love Jeſus Chriſt; and how am I beholden to him for this? But O my dear Lord and God, my King and Saviour, help me to love thee *better*. My Wiſh for you is that you may *truly know*, and then I am ſure you will love him. You will find him a *ſympathizing Friend* in all your Affictions; a *ſtrong Deliverer* in all your Trials; and a *wiſe Adviſer* in every doubtful Circumſtance. The Lord bleſs you.

I am &c. E. G.

LETTER LXXI.

My dear Friend,

I Have often thought of my dear Friends at L— ſince I left you.

I have now no one to ſpeak my Mind freely and fully unto, but Jeſus Chriſt: In his attentive and compaſſionate Ear, I pour out my frequent Prayer; and he hears and helps me ſpeedily: So that having now no human Helps or Comforters, I need none;

"Chriſt is all the World to me,
"And all my Heart is Love."

I had a little Illneſs the other Week, but it was acceptable to me, and good for me. Nothing is amiſs my Saviour doth. I need not be careful about any Thing. For I know all things *do*, and *will*

will work together for my Good, ſo long as I love him, which I intend to do for ever. Oh! the Sweetneſs of that Reſt, which is obtained by leaving all Deſire, but that of pleaſing and enjoying Jeſus. One Day here is better than a thouſand. What are all the Riches, Pleaſures, and Honours of this World, when compared with the Treaſures of CHRIST's Grace, the Sweetneſs of his Love he puts upon the Saints? They bear not ſo great a Proportion to them, as the ſmalleſt Grain of Sand, to the greateſt Mountain, or a ſecond of Time to ten thouſand Ages. If we always ſee them in this Light, and feel them make correſpondent Impreſſions upon our Minds, how eaſy will it be to prefer them to the other! How unable will the Things of Time be to warp our Judgments, or draw our Affections to their Intereſt! with what *Patience* ſhall we bear Afflictions, Loſſes, and Diſappointments: And with what *Eaſe* ſhall we deny ourſelves of any Thing that would rob us of our *Saviour's Love*! How light would Slander and Diſgrace ſit upon us, while conſcious we are approved, and honoured of God! What a ſmall Thing to be poor in this World, when we have Wealth enough at home, in *Heaven*! And how can we poſſibly want Pleaſure, while we *rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God*!

Let not your Heart ſay, "But this is not the "Caſe with me." When you examine your State, put Mercy and loving Kindneſs enough in the oppoſite Scale to your Demerit, and Unworthineſs. When you reaſon; let not Unbelief, but Faith draw the Concluſion, and when you

are

are tempted, think not of your own Weakneſs, but of Chriſt's Strength. God be with your Spirit.

Farewell.

LETTER LXXII.

MY Good Friend will not be ſurprized if I tell him, I have been ſome Time heſitating whether I ſhould write or not. By the Light I have I ſee ſo much Darkneſs, and ſo much Vileneſs, that I fear almoſt to write a ſingle Sentence, leſt I ſhould be guilty of that Mockery, which is an Abomination to the God of Sincerity.

You have ſometimes gently reproved me for complaining; but is there not a Cauſe? I can, I muſt complain; but not of my Lord: He is ſtill gracious, or my Ingratitude had ſunk me beyond the Reach of Mercy, long e'er now. Theſe Lines are a Proof that he is *gracious and merciful; ſlow to anger, and of abundant Kindneſs.* This ſhews you that I am out of Hell. Nay more, you muſt glorify the Lord with me, for he tells me "I am thy Salvation." O my Brother, what a good Saviour is this that ſaveth me! What a great Phyſician is he who healeth me. It is true (and I muſt proclaim it aloud upon the Houſe Tops) that Jeſus Chriſt does ſave even *me.*

Since I left L—— my Soul has been in Priſon, "Deep called unto Deep, at the Noiſe of his "Water Spouts; all his Billows ran over me." I have been indeed like *Jonah* in the Whale's Belly; yet out of the Belly of Hell I cried, and he heard

heard me. I ſunk down inſenſibly, till I became as if I had had no God: Temptation poured in like a Flood: And for ſeveral Days, I thought I could gladly have contented myſelf to have been a Dog rather than a Man. But in a little Time he returned, and with loving Kindneſs he gathered me. Did I not think you acquainted with theſe Things, I ſhould wave telling, what muſt appear *Enthuſiaſm* to a *natural Man*. In the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, he let me ſee that Chriſt's Body was broken for me; that Chriſt's Blood was ſhed for me: He healed my back ſlidings and loved me freely. For three whole Days I found his Peace and Love ſo eminently in my Heart that I began to think he had *perfected me in Holineſs*. O how good it is "to go by the "Foot-ſteps of the Flocks, and feed one's Kids "beſides the Shepherd's Tents!' But now I know he hath not yet brought me forth, I have not yet attained; I feel my Heart yet impure: But pray for me, while I tell you with Reverence, even I begin to feel my Conſcience "quick as the Ap-"ple of an Eye." I do not feel that Humility I want in telling this,—I fear to proceed—but pray for me.

Let me entreat you my dear Friend, to preſs forward, and ſtrive to believe. Leave reaſoning and come nakedly to Jeſus Chriſt, *Believe on the Lord Jeſus, and thou ſhalt be ſaved.*

I know I am unworthy to ſpeak in my Maſter's Name, yet I cannot contentedly ſee you groping in the *Dark*, without telling you of the *Sun of Righteouſneſs*. Indeed there is no Humility in

ſaying

ſaying I am a Pattern of Mercy: 'Tis plain Truth, and I feel it: If he ſaves me, he is not willing that any ſhould periſh. *Now is the accepted Time* for you. Caſt not theſe Words behind you, for God is willing you ſhould now be ſaved. I am grieved, my Soul mourns, becauſe you dare not ſay "*The Lord is my Righteouſneſs.*" You ſtand at a Diſtance; you do not venture on him. O commit your Soul unto the Lord. He is able and he will keep it, and preſent it ſpotleſs at his Father's Right Hand. While you ſeek him in his Ordinances, *ſtand ſtill, and ſee the Salvation of God.*

Pray for me that I may be kept from the Evil that is in the World. I hope to remember you (if living) before my Father's Throne, while

I am your's, &c.

LETTER LXXIII.

My dear Brother,

I SHOULD have anſwer'd your kind Letter before, but ſoon after the Receipt of it, I ſet of for N———, and am but lately returned. I have been ſometimes tempted to leave off writing to any one, unleſs I was obliged to it; becauſe I have thought, what I could ſay was ſo uſeleſs, that my Friends might ſpend their Time much better, than in reading my Letters: But it is a baſe Humility; a Plant not of GOD's Right-Hand planting; and I muſt not yield. Indeed, I appear as it were, a Beaſt before GOD; and often wonder, that any one takes Notice of me. I feel myſelf

ſelf more than ever I did, to be poor, and blind, and naked: But poor as I am, like the Widow, let me caſt in my Mites, and wiſh you good Luck in the Name of the LORD. Right glad am I, that you have ſo ſweet a Senſe of the *pardoning Love of* GOD. Glory be to Him for Free Grace!

" That We—Children of Wrath and Sin,
" We ſhould be called the Sons of GOD!"

O! my Brother! Do you not feel the Power of that Word? *Then ſhall you loath yourſelves in your own Eyes, when I am pacified towards you.* I think I am ſick of wandering away from the Fountain of Life: I want to be a Garden enclos'd. When will my LORD appear, and lead Captivity captive He hath received Gifts for me, rebellious as I am; and here will I reſt. He hath choſen me in the Furnace of Affliction. I am the LORD's; for He hath bought me with the Price of His precious Blood. And now,

" My feeble Soul ſhall win the Day,
" Tho' Death and Hell obſtruct the Way."

But Satan thruſts hard at me, that I might fall. I have Need to graſp my Shield; to hold faſt my Confidence. I told you before, that the Enemy would moſt of all aſſault *you* at this Quarter: Therefore, *Paul* wiſely ſaith, *Above all take the Shield of Faith.* By FAITH, we ſhall remove Mountains, ſtop the Mouths of Lions, and out of Weakneſs be made ſtrong.

This *laying hold* of the Strength of GOD, is wonderful: It made one cry out of old, " Thro' " Chriſt I ſhall do valiantly; I can do all Things

" through

" through Chriſt ſtrengthening me." What would have become of ſo inſignificant a Creature as me, had it not been for this? O, Chriſt is all in all to my Soul!

" When I appear in yonder Cloud,
" With all His favour'd Throng;
" Then I ſhall ſing more ſweet, more loud,
" And CHRIST ſhall be my Song."

O learn to love a precious CHRIST! You can never love Him too much. Look on him, 'till you are changed into His Image; till you are ſealed to the Day of Redemption; I mean, till you are ſwallowed up in Love.

The Work of God goes on at *L*——. Many are awakened. Many are converted. Many are added to the Church of ſuch, as I believe, ſhall be ſaved. The Fields are white, ready unto Harveſt: Pray the LORD of the Harveſt that He would ſend forth more *faithful* LABOURERS. I believe Satan's Kingdom has got a ſevere Blow, The LORD be prais'd! I muſt tell you ſomething remarkable: One that had been mourning under a Senſe of Sin a long Time, was lately taken ill. For three Days and three Nights ſhe was in ſtrong Agony of Body and Soul. With but very little Intermiſſion, ſhe cried out all that Time, *Jeſus, Thou Son of David, have Mercy on me!* At laſt, raiſing her Voice, ſhe ſhouted aloud, " Amen! Halle-" lujah! Glory be to God in the higheſt!" and fell back, and expired.——Let us join her, and cry *Hallelujah*, 'till with all the glorious Throng above, we more perfectly ſing to all Eternity,

" *Worthy*

" *Worthy is the Lamb to receive Honour, and Bleſ-*
" *ſing, and Praiſe.*" *Even ſo* LORD JESUS. Amen.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXIII.

My dear Friend,

YOUR Kindneſs of the 5th ult. now lies before me, and was as cordial; for when I receiv'd it, it gave great Comfort and Relief to my Mind, at that Time under ſome Diſtreſs. Indeed, I have ſuffered many Things lately, for want of the Spirit of *Eli*. I do not find my evil Nature will ſuffer me to ſay, " *It is the* LORD, " *let Him do what He will.*" But upon every little Croſs, my Will is ready to riſe in Rebellion againſt GOD: I am fit to murmur, complain, and become impatient upon every Croſs that viſits me. O how different is my Temper of Mind, from the Diſpoſition of the Bleſſed, the Redeeming JESUS! He was meek and lowly in Heart; I am peeviſh and haughty in Spirit. His whole Life was made up of a Series of Temptations, of Afflictions Spiritual and Temporal, at which He repined not, but committed Himſelf to Him that judgeth righteouſly: But I am an unreſigned and wretched Creature, without a due Conformity of Temper and Diſpoſition to my LORD. O that I could *always* ſay with Sincerity and Truth, " *Not* " *as I will, but as Thou wilt, O* LORD.

This is my preſent State, in which I am not without Hope, That that Saviour who died for *me*, will, of His free Grace and tender Love, deſtroy

ſtroy all theſe Works of Satan which ſtill remain in me: That He will waſh me in His Blood, ſanctify my Nature, and in His due Time beat down Satan under my Feet. But we muſt patiently wait the LORD's Coming, and *He that ſhall come, will come, and will not tarry.*

I am your ſincere Friend.

LETTER LXXIV.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours, and can aſſure you it came in an acceptable Time.

" O what is Friendſhip! why impreſt
" On my weak, wretched, dying Breaſt!"

You are welcome to act the part of a Patient, and Trouble me (as you call it) with your Complaints: You may depend upon the beſt Aſſiſtance your unworthy Friend is able to afford.

I am ſorry your haſte of Unbelief cauſes you to have hard Thoughts of him, who is Love in the Abſtract. Your Reaſons for ſuch a Conduct are not ſufficient. Forget not to offer Praiſe for the Mercies you have already received: By this Means will you be enabled quietly to wait, and at the ſame Time, earneſtly to contend, for an *Increaſe* of that FAITH, which will produce in you a greater Abundance of all the *Fruits* of the SPIRIT. As a Means to this great End, pray for Patience with yourſelf. Your Uneaſineſs many Times ariſes, when you remember thoſe Mercies by which you are diſtinguiſhed from many who are around you, from conſidering what ungrate-

ful

ful Returns you have made for this waſte of Love.

It would be well for you to dwell more upon the Loving-Kindneſs of him, who hath called you out of Darkneſs into his marvellous Light. This will have upon your Mind a *tranſforming* Influence. You will perhaps reply, "But you "little know how many are my Hindrances."— I am not entirely ignorant of what hurtful Impreſſions your Mind is ſuſceptible: And I muſt intreat you, if you intend to grow in Grace, to ſet a *double* Watch upon that dangerous Avenue to your Soul, your *Imagination*. You ſeem very ſenſible of the bad Effects of giving looſe to this excurſive Faculty: And if you narrowly examine your own Heart, you will perhaps find, that that *Inſenſibility* to the Things of GOD, of which I have heard you complain, is occaſioned by your *Imagination* being too much employed with Things of a contrary Nature.

It is a great Thing to keep the Heart with all Diligence, for truly of it are the Iſſues of Life. You will find Occaſion often to remember the Words of our LORD; *He that will be my Diſciple, muſt deny himſelf, take up his Croſs, and follow ME*. Your Happineſs will greatly depend upon a right Diviſion of your Time. Your Buſineſs requires many Hours of the Day: may the LORD help you to employ what is given up to his *immediate* Service to the beſt Advantage.

It is our Mercy, that we have not an High-Prieſt that cannot ſympathize with our Infirmities, but who was in all Points tempted like unto

us;

us; and the Reaſon for it is given by the Apoſtle, *That he might be able to ſuccour thoſe who are tempted.*

I am, with the greateſt Sincerity,

Your Friend, &c.

LETTER LXXV.

Dear Sir,

LET nothing diſcourage you from the purſuit of that State of PERFECTION, which is attainable to all thoſe who ſeek the LORD JESUS in Sincerity and Truth; and then no Difficulty will be found ſo great, as to be unſurmountable by his Grace. This I have in ſome Meaſure experienced: For ſure there was never a Son of *Adam* called to a Senſe of ſo many Sins as I had really committed. My whole Life was nothing but a varied Scene of Defection from GOD: So that my Soul was ſpotted like the Leopard, or rather infected like the Leper's Skin.

But yet, my Friend, notwithſtanding all this Evil in my Nature, I can ſay, and that with a reaſonable Aſſurance, that *the Blood of* CHRIST *cleanſeth from all Sin.* My Sins were as *Scarlet*, but the redeeming JESUS hath made them *whiter than Snow. I have taſted that the* LORD *is gracious, and that his Mercy endureth for ever.* With me the Work of Grace has been carried on in a regular progreſſive Manner, firſt by ſtrong Convictions, then by Juſtification through the Blood of CHRIST, and now, I hope, the LORD is carrying on the Work of Sanctification. Theſe States have their different Temptations, and peculiar Trials,

Trials, under which there ſeems nothing ſo deſirable as the Grace of an humble, meek, and quiet Spirit. When we can take up our Croſs daily with a ſimilar Spirit to our SAVIOUR, and ſay with Freedom of Heart, FATHER, *thy Will be done*; then ſhall we be able to rejoice in Temptations, and Experience the Truth of our LORD's Words, that *His Yoke is eaſy, and his Burthen light.*

My Trials are chiefly of the internal Kind: Theſe daily afflict me; but the LORD delivereth me out of all. And what is ſingular is, that in all the Anxiety and Diſtreſs under which I labour, I have not the leaſt Diſpoſition to complain to Man: Nor can I obſerve that any Perſon conceives I ſuffer, or is apprehenſive of my Trouble.

I hope the Work of Grace proſpers in the Hearts of our Friends here. The LORD is loving to every Man; and would we caſt out the various Idols which poſſeſs our Souls, and by his Sovereign Aid deſtroy the antient Inhabitants of the Land, then would he abide with us for ever. But alas! how like the *Iſraelites* of old, do we retain too great a Friendſhip for the former *Images* that engaged our Affections; and nothing but Divine Grace can reſtrain us from worſhiping the antient Idols of *Canaan*. How happy ſhould we be, would we eſchew our Pleaſures, and continually reſiſt all *Self-love*, then ſhould we *go on from Strength to Strength.*

I am, with due reſpect, your's ſincerely.

LET-

LETTER LXXVI.

Dear Sir,

THO' it is impoſſible for Words to expreſs the Senſe I have of the many Obligations I am under to you, yet I muſt make the attempt, by thanking you for the kind Enquiry you made in your Letters to Mr. *** after the State of my Soul. I can ſay little elſe but *Praiſe the* LORD, *O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits.* He has not only ſaved my Life, but is ſtill crowning that Life, he ſo wonderfully preſerved, with his loving-kindneſs and hourly mercies. I cannot diſtruſt the tender mercy of my GOD either in Time or Eternity: And I can truly ſay, that every Bleſſing I have experienced, or can deſire for myſelf, I wiſh and pray may deſcend upon you. I hope you do not forget to pray that I may glorify GOD with my Body and Spirit which are doubly his. I find I cannot love him as I would; but I rejoice in the Proſpect of that bliſsful Hour, when I ſhall caſt the Crown he gives at his Feet, and cry without ceaſing, with unwearied Ardour, *Worthy is the Lamb that was ſlain, to receive all Honour, and Glory, and Praiſe.* The Thought of this employ, oftimes o'erwhelms me in Joy that is unſpeakable, and full of Glory.

O dear Sir, praiſe the LORD with me, until we magnify his Name for ever. I truſt I ſhall meet your happy Spirit in that Day, entire and lacking nothing; without Spot or Blemiſh, before the Throne. May he who ſits thereon *direct your heart into his perfect Love, and to a patient waiting for the coming of Chriſt.* Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER LXXVII.

To the SOCIETY at NORWICH.

Dear Brethren. *Jan.* 21, 1761.

GRACE, Mercy, and Peace be to you, from GOD *even* our FATHER, and from our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Your paſt Lives are a Year longer, and your future Lives a Year ſhorter than when I wrote laſt unto you. Are you proportionably advanced in *Grace*, and reduced in *Nature?*

You are many of you, already born of GOD, *waſhed*, *juſtified*, and *ſanctified*; and you hope to be *glorified* through the SPIRIT, and MERIT of JESUS CHRIST. Thus much you experience: Therefore you are *a choſen Generation*, *a royal Prieſthood*, *a peculiar People*, *an holy Nation.* What for? *That you might ſhew forth the Praiſes of him, who hath called you out of Darkneſs, into his marvellous Light, and out of the Kingdom of Satan unto GOD; to receive Forgiveneſs of Sins, and an Inheritance among the ſanctified.* Thus writes PAUL; thus writes PETER. Therefore ſhew *you* the neceſſary and bleſſed Effects, which reſult from ſuch a State. Let all your Thoughts, Words, and Actions, be *in* CHRIST, *through* CHRIST, and *unto* CHRIST. All *ſo* done, is *well* done; and tho' undeſerving of any Reward; yet is ſo acceptable to our *dear* SAVIOUR, that it has the Promiſe, both of this Life, and of that which is to come.

If the Term *Sinleſs Perfection* be diſguſtful to *ſome*, ſure CHRISTIAN PERFECTION will be grateful to *all* who know CHRIST. 'Tis to love GOD

with all our *Heart*, *Mind*, *Soul*, and *Strength*. This is *ſcriptural Perfection*. This is the *Word* of GOD. *This* is His *Command*. Yea; and it is natural to the Regenerate to deſire *this*. Are you the Sons of GOD? Should you not *then* be Followers, (Imitators) of GOD as dear Children? Is CHRIST your Head, *holy?* Should not you his Members be *holy* alſo? Are you endued with the *Gift* of the Spirit? Should you not *then* bring forth the *Fruit* of the *Spirit?* Conſider all this. Why ſhould we neglect, refuſe, or object to be what is moſt intereſting, and advantageous in our State? And ſo neceſſary, that tho' we cannot be ſaved *for* it, yet we cannot be ſaved *without* it. *Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

Tho' you are in a State of Salvation, yet muſt you ſtrive, to work out your Salvation with Fear and Trembling. Give, my Brethren, give all Diligence to add to your Faith, Virtue; to Virtue, Knowledge; to Knowledge, Temperance; to Temperance, Patience; to Patience, Godlineſs; to Godlineſs, Brotherly-Kindneſs; to Brotherly-Kindneſs, Charity. For if theſe Things be in you, and abound, they make you, that you ſhall neither be barren, or unfruitful in the Knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Thus let us ſee what our LORD and we ſhall bring it to at laſt. *Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

'Tis well known, we muſt go thro' manifold Temptations into the Kingdom. Our Foes will diſpute it with us, every Inch of the Ground to

Heaven.

Heaven. But what then? Greater is he, who is *in us*, than he who is in the World. You *may*, nay you *muſt*, ſtand in the evil Day; and when you have done all ſtand. If you don't, the *Fault* is your own. The *Effect* your Shame. We are not tempted above that we are able. We never *fall*, we never *ſin*, thro' the *want*, but thro' the *abuſe* of Grace. Nor is it enough to ſtand our Ground, but we muſt *conquer* alſo, or not enjoy the Crown of Life. Therefore, when the *Fleſh* tempts you, *flee*, and pray; when the *World* tempts you, *watch*, and pray; and when the *Devil* tempts you, *reſiſt*, and pray. *So ſhall ye be more than Conquerors. Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

Suffer me to preſcribe to you a Method, how to live *one* Day well. It may ſerve for *every* Day after, by repeating it. Nor will I preſume to lay a Burthen on your Shoulders, and not touch it with my own Fingers.

As ſoon as you awake in the Morning, employ half an hour in *five Things*. Bleſs GOD for the Mercies of the Night paſt; pray for the Bleſſings of a new Day; examine well your own Heart; meditate upon ſome ſpiritual Subject; and laſtly, plan the Buſineſs of the approaching Day. Then riſe at *four* o'Clock, but never later than *five*, if well. While you put on your Cloaths, praiſe, or pray, mentally, but ſuitably to your State. Then ſpend another half Hour in ſecret Meditation, Praiſe, and Prayer. After this call your Family together, read a Chapter, and as you have Ability and Leiſure, expound it to them.

Then ſing an Hymn, and conclude with Prayer. Pray always before and after Meat: Thus take the Curſe from off your Victuals; and bleſs GOD for the Benefit of them. Begin, proceed in, and lay by Work, *thus*. Begin with that which ſhould never ceaſe, *Prayer in your Mind*; while you are at your Work, meditate, praiſe, or pray, or converſe religiouſly with thoſe about you: This will not hinder, but further your Labour. As often as you can, retire a few Minutes to Prayer, at *nine* o'Clock in the Morning, and *three* in the Afternoon. It would be well to ſpend a little Time in Prayer with your Family, immediately after Dinner. In the *Evening* conſtantly obſerve the ſame Order of Devotion in your Family, as in the Morning. At going to Bed, *reviſe* the Thoughts, Words, and Actions of the *paſt* Day. What appears *amiſs*, beg Pardon for: What is *well* bleſs GOD *alone* for: And *never* cloſe your Eyes to ſleep, with any unforgiven Sin upon your Conſcience. *Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

Never neglect this, or ſome ſuch Method of walking with GOD. Do all *feelingly*, *fervently*, and *devoutly*, as from the Spirit of GOD in you. Cuſtom will make it *familiar*, *eaſy*, and *pleaſant* to you. And if you *thus* ſpend every Week-Day, you will no doubt keep the Sabbath-Day *holy*. You will ſurely attend the *Word*, the *Lord*'s *Table*, and all *occaſional Meetings*. All this will help you to attain *to the Meaſure of the Stature, of perfect Men in* CHRIST. *Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

In

In a Word, diligently uſe every *Means*, and as diligently exerciſe every *Meaſure* of *Grace*. Be fervent in Spirit, ſerving the LORD. In every Thing, invariably aim at his glory, out of a pure Heart, and good Conſcience, and Faith unfeigned. *Are ye Trees of Righteouſneſs? Let the Trees be known by their Fruit.*

To the *everlaſting Praiſe* of our *dear* JESUS be it known to you, that his Work of Grace proſpers in theſe Parts. Our Congregations are generally large: New Members are added to our Societies, and our old *ones* go on in full *Aſſurance*, and ſome of them in the *Triumph* of FAITH to *Heaven*. *Are WE Trees of Righteouſneſs? May we have our Fruit unto Holineſs, and the End everlaſting Life.* Pray for me, and I'll pray for you, who am

Your affectionate Brother, W. G.

LETTER LXXVIII.

My dear Father, *Dublin, July* 23, 1755.

THO' I am far diſtant from you in Perſon, yet I am intimately near you in Spirit and Affection.

At preſent I write unto you, with Abundance of Tears flowing from my Eyes, proceeding from the Fulneſs of Love in my Heart. My Intent in writing unto you, is not to procure your favour, that I know you give me out of paternal Affection and a Senſe of Duty; nor for your Subſtance that I do not want; but my Buſineſs with you is far more important; I beſeech you, O my dear Fa-

ther, to ſeek the *one thing needful.* To lay aſide every Weight, and the Sin, (viz. worldly Mindedneſs) which does moſt eaſily beſet you: And to uſe all Diligence to make your Calling, and Election ſure. Renouncing your own Righteouſneſs, *which is but as filthy Rags*, make Application to Chriſt, that you may be intereſted in his Blood, and Righteouſneſs. 'Tis by Faith in his Blood, we are juſtified; 'tis by Faith in his Blood we are ſanctified: Yea, it is the Blood of Chriſt, which cleanſeth from *all* Sin.

Oh! that I could but impart unto you ſome of the Sweetneſs, and Comfort, which I now feel in the Enjoyment of the Love of God. Tho' it would be Hell to me, to return unto a natural unregenerate State again; yet I would willingly part with the Love of God, for a little Time, that you might know what it is to love him, and to have Chriſt formed in your Heart by Faith. I could with St. Paul, wiſh myſelf, (temporally) accurſed for *you* and the reſt of my Relations according to the Fleſh. But tho' I cannot, by this or any other Means, I can uſe, merit this Bleſſing for you, or confer it upon you; yet there is the ſame unexhauſtible Fulneſs of Mercy, and Love in Chriſt for you, as I and many more have found. If you turn heartily unto him, you *will*, you *aſſuredly* will meet with the ſame welcome, and bleſſed Treatment, that others have done. There is Balm in Gilead: His Arm is not ſhortened, that it cannot ſave; or his Ear grown heavy, that it cannot hear, but he has the ſame Compaſſionate Heart, cordial Love, and exquiſite Tenderneſs toward returning

Prodigals,

Prodigals, and ſelf Righteouſneſs renouncing Phariſees, as he had ſeventeen Hundred Years ago, when affectionately crying: *Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt* and ſorrowfully complaining, *ye will not come to me that ye might have Life.*

Yet as I have often told you, when preſent, ſo I tell you now I am abſent, that you muſt come unto Chriſt, here on Earth, in the Way of Repentance, and Faith; or you can never aſcend to His Kingdom and Glory in Heaven.

Chriſt muſt come down into our Hearts, by His Spirit; or we can never ariſe to happineſs in Eternity, not even by his Merit. Our Hearts, muſt become his Throne here, if ever we have a Seat in his Throne hereafter. Converted we muſt be, or be condemned. Changed from Nature to Grace, while living, or change our Place from Earth, to Hell, when dead. Without *Renovation* in Time, no *Reſurrection* to eternal Happineſs in Eternity. What muſt Dogs and Swine do in the Palace of the King of Heaven, and in the Garden of Paradiſe, and ſuch we really are, until renewed in the Image of God.

I know you are an honeſt Man among your Neighbours, and a loving and reſpectful Father unto your Children: But Honeſty is not Regeneration. Tho' you are civilized, you are not ſanctified. Do not take it ill. Think me not undutiful, becauſe faithful unto my Conſcience, leaſt of all think me unkind, becauſe I tell you the Truth. *Ye muſt* notwithſtanding *be born again.*

Pray attend the Word of God where it is preached in *the Demonſtration of the Spirit, and of Power:* And do not by any means neglect *private* or *Family* Prayer. May the Bleſſing of God attend every Means you uſe, and make them Spirit, and Life unto you: May he give you Grace, with Peace in this World, and everlaſting Happineſs in the next, is the unfeigned Prayer, of

Your dutiful Son.

LETTER LXXIX.

My very dear, and loving Father,

Cork, March 23, 1756.

YOURS I receiv'd with Thankfulneſs. I might inform you how much I eſteem you, and how great Pleaſure the hearing from ſo kind, and indulgent a Parent gives me: But this would neither be as expreſſive of my true Affection, or ſo uſeful and beneficial to you, as to watch for your Soul, and pray for your Salvation. I am thoroughly convinced this is the trueſt Inſtance of rational and exalted Kindneſs. Every Claim to this amiable Character is quite defective and vain, if it does not extend to our ſpiritual Intereſts, and our eternal Welfare.

I hope, my dear Father, you do not neglect *the one Thing needful.* All worldly Things, tho' of the moſt excellent Kinds, are but like the moſt deſpicable Chaff, when compared with the Bleſſings GOD beſtows upon his Children here, and the ineſtimable Treaſure He hath laid up for them hereafter. Oh! how dark and gloomy is that

Man's

Man's State, who has not an Intereſt in our dear Redeemer, tho' he may ſwim in the River of ſenſual Pleaſure, baſk in the warmeſt Beams of human Honour, and have the Spoils of Kingdoms at his Feet, compared to *his*, whoſe Priviledge it is to live under the benign Influences of Heaven, in the Proſpect of Glory, and in Divine Communion with his GOD, tho' cloathed in Rags, and ſituate with Lazarus upon the Dunghill.

I have delayed, for ſome Time, to write unto you, expecting Mr. W. coming to this Place, in order that I might inform you when, and how I hope to come into *England*; but his having been prevented in his Intention of coming here, has render'd me incapable of giving you any Information, notwithſtanding my Delay.

I unfeignedly thank GOD I am in my uſual State of Health, and Diſpoſition of Mind, tho' neither exempt from bodily Pains, Soul Conflicts, or outward Croſſes; yet the LORD gives me Strength according to my Day; and, which is not a little to my Comfort, is pleaſed, in ſome ſmall Meaſure, to give Succeſs to my unworthy Labours. Some Sinners which were far off, are brought nigh to GOD, by the Blood of CHRIST; and others convinced of their Diſtance from HIM, and has an earneſt Deſire to return unto Him.

I need not tell you, that I think often of, and deſire to be with you; but while this cannot be, GOD will give me Contentment: However, may you, and all my Relations and Friends, live under the heavenly Light, and healing Wings of JESUS CHRIST. May you have brighter and

brighter Manifeſtations of His immenſe and amiable Perfections; and may you, by theſe heavenly Views, grow daily in His holy and divine Image; then your Happineſs will be ſuch as is wiſhed for,

By your moſt obliged, and dutiful Son, &c.

LETTER LXXX.

My dear Friend, *Jan.* 19, 1758.

WHAT can comfort a Soul that is painfully diſtreſſed for want of *Love?* It may be ſome allay to one's Miſery, to think that others love that GOD, whom we would love, but cannot. What can afflict that Soul which is free from every Creature, and fixed on GOD alone? One can ſcarcely think that any could be ſo baſe, with reſpect to GOD, and wretched with regard to himſelf, as not to love Him; and yet this Wretchedneſs I feel. Writing juſt now on my own Condition, preſſes it deeper on my troubled Heart. I had no ſooner come to this Concluſion, I do not love the LORD JESUS CHRIST, but it occurred to me, Yet others do: Here I found a pleaſing Satisfaction. I then bleſſed GOD for you, and others of my Friends, who offer Him what is due from all, but what I ſtill withhold, *the Love of the whole Heart.*

As the State I apprehend your Soul to be in, affords me Matter of *Praiſe*, and actually excites it; ſo the State you muſt judge my Soul to be in, from the Account I have given of it, will afford you Matter of *Prayer*, and ſhould actually excite it, while it occaſions your Pity.

I formerly threatened you with Letters, knowing, that if you have Patience, it was not given to be wrapped up in a Napkin, but for Exercise: And now I am going about the Performance of it, I may tell you before-hand, *I am wretched, and desire your Prayers*, shall be my Subject: The various Parts of which, I shall unfold, explain, and insist on, as I see Occasion. But you may expect I shall do this in different Humours; you must look for nothing of Unchangeableness in me, 'till my *worst*, my *oldest* Enemy, SELF, expires.

Perfect Love, unspotted Charity; not to be subject to any inordinate Affections, any irregular Desire of any Kind, in any Degree: To have no one Affection of the Soul at any Time exercised on an improper Object, or in an undue Manner; to love every Creature in a due Subordination to the Love of GOD, and each in their Order, according to that Measure of His Image which they bear, and the Relation they stand in unto Him; I say, these are Things so great for a *Sinner* to attain to, as to be almost incredible. Yet if you can, in cool Blood, affirm each of these Particulars of yourself, I know not how I could, consistent with that Charity, which *hopeth, and believeth all Things*, disbelieve you.

But how shall I attain them? Methinks I hear you earnestly exhort me. *Cast off: Press on. Fight: Wrestle, and be still.* All this is *ever* sounding in my Ears; but alas! I find no Door of Hope. The *old Man*, if not the *strong one*, has still Possession, and much Goods laid up in Store for many

Years. No Straits can expell him; for however cloſely he may be beſieged without, he has Proviſion enough to ſubſiſt on within: And he can reſiſt *all Power*, but Omnipotence. You ſay there needs no other. Engage *this* on your Side, and you ſhall be more than a Conqueror. How? *By Prayer*. I do pray; but it ſeems as tho' he regarded it not. Join me in the Petition, and it may be I ſhall prevail. Thus you ſee, 'tis proper my Subject ſhould be—*I am wretched, pray for me.*

Still, that you may not be found *leſs* in the Sight of GOD, than your greateſt *Friend* or *Flatterer*, whether *yourſelf* or *another*, either ſays you are, or thinks you to be, is the ardent Prayer of

Your Friend and Brother, &c. &c.

LETTER LXXXI.

My much reſpected Friend, *Feb.* 29, 1760.

A Deep Senſe of my own Inability, and your great Superiority to me, almoſt in every Thing, has, 'till now, forbid my writing unto you. I can ſincerely rank myſelf among them who have Reaſon to bleſs GOD for your coming into this Country. If I ever ſhall again be favour'd with your Company and Converſation, you will, I truſt, have leſs Reaſon to chide me for thoſe Things, you ſo many Times judged reprovable in me. You had not been gone above two Days, before I was convinced of ſeveral Things, which I ingenuouſly acknowledge did not before appear amiſs. Whatever I have been, I am not an *Antinomian now*. I never was more ſenſible of

my

my Dependance upon God, for all Things. I think it my indiſpenſible Duty to aſk, at His beneficent Hands, the minuteſt Bleſſing my Neceſſity calls for. I am, as you once juſtly obſerved, but a Child in Holineſs; but I can truly ſay, I deſire and deſign, to be an obedient one. When, I know my Father's Will, I immediately apply myſelf to the doing, or ſuffering of it, with all that Power He gives me. My Happineſs, diſtinct from every other Conſideration, conſiſts in doing His bleſſed Will. You may remember to have told me, I ſhould meet with many Trials: This has *indeed* been exactly true. My Experience has been ſomething extraordinary; but let me with Gratitude acknowledge, my Strength has been equal to my every Day. I find an increaſe of every Thing which is true, juſt, virtuous, commendable, and of good Report. This I ſpeak to the Praiſe of God. Of how great Things is the human Mind capable. I did not think once, that my Faculties could have been raiſed thus, from the Ruins of the *Fall*. My Deſires and Averſions are, I truſt, turned toward their right and proper Objects. The Lord makes thoſe Diſcoveries to my Underſtanding, which draw my Affections to Things above. My very Body is a Temple of the Holy Ghoſt, and is employed in the Service of God. Help me, my dear Friend, to praiſe God for theſe ineſtimable Mercies. Pray excuſe whatever you ſee amiſs in this. I promiſe myſelf great Satisfaction, when I ſhall have the Happineſs of being a Spectator of their Improvement at L—ds.

Give

Give my kind Love to all Friends, accept the ſame yourſelf,

From your ever loving,
and faithful Friend, &c. &c.

LETTER LXXXII.

My dear, and much reſpected Father,

St. Auſtle, May 6, 1758.

THE Reaſon of my Silence ſo long, is from my Expectation of hearing from you, in Anſwer to my laſt. Since I wrote laſt, I have enjoyed as good a State of Health, as I have uſually had in Time paſt; for which I unfeignedly praiſe GOD, who is the Giver of this, and every other Bleſſing. I have been in ſome Danger lately, of falling into the Hands of unreaſonable and ſinful Men, but the LORD hath reſtrained their Power, and kept me from their Malice. Some of the Gentlemen of this County are very much averſe to the Way, which they are pleaſed to call *Hereſy, in which we worſhip the* GOD *of our Fathers*. And this is not to be wondered at, for as it was in the Beginning, ſo it is now; thoſe who are born after the *Fleſh*, perſecute them who are born after the *Spirit*. But when Almighty GOD is diſpoſed to work His great Works among Sinners, impotent Men, tho' ever ſo combin'd together, cannot prevent it. The LORD is making known his Salvation, which is through Faith, unto the People: Where His Name is recorded, tho' by very imperfect *Ambaſſadors*, yet His powerful Grace is diſ-

played

played. *Men are enquiring the Way to Zion, with their Faces thither-ward, weeping.*

I cannot, once again, help expreſſing my Concern for your Salvation. I make this the Subject of my Prayers; and ſhall it not have a Place in my Letters? O my dear Father, do not ſlight, or neglect, that which our LORD calls, *the one Thing needful:* Without the Enjoyment of *this*, we can neither be happy in Time, or in Eternity. I often think, with wiſhful Concern, of your declining Age, and diminiſhing Strength. Your Days on Earth, *even* in the Courſe of Nature, cannot be many. The Weakneſs of your vital Powers, the Infirmities which attend you, and the Inſtances of Mortality which ſurround you, call loudly unto you, to conſider, and prepare for your latter End. There is no Way of facing Death with Courage, and looking undaunted on the Tomb into which we are going; no Aſſurance of Happineſs in yonder World of Spirits, but by an aſſured Intereſt in the holy Life, and propitiatory Death, in the glorious Reſurrection, and prevalent Interceſſion of our adorable Redeemer. As I have often told you in Times paſt, ſo I tell you again, that the *only* Way of obtaining Salvation through CHRIST, is by *Faith*. In order to this, earneſtly beſeech the GOD of all Grace, to give you a true and deep Senſe of the Depravity of your Nature, the exceeding ſinfulneſs of Sin, and your utter guiltineſs in Conſequence of it. Pray that you may be enabled to renounce your Dependance upon your own Righteouſneſs. Let the Spirit of GOD convince you of the entire Neceſſity of being

born

born again of the Holy Ghoſt. In this Diſpoſition come unto GOD, in the Name of CHRIST JESUS, that you may, with CHRIST, receive Pardon of all your Sins, Peace with GOD, Adoption into His Family, ſanctifying Grace, and everlaſting Glory. And remember, for your Encouragement, that you are invited. *Ho! every one that thirſteth, come ye to the Waters*, &c. Call to Mind what our Saviour ſaith: *Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you Reſt.* Do you labour againſt Sin? Are you burdened with the Guilt of it? *Chriſt* bids you come! *Chriſt*, the Mighty GOD, the everlaſting Father, the Prince of Peace, bids you come. What Power can prevent your Acceſs unto Him? *Chriſt*, the Ocean of Love and Mercy, bids you come: Here all your Sins, however many, or mighty, are ſwallowed up. That He is willing you ſhould come unto Him; witneſs thoſe bitter Pains and Sufferings which He endured, and that precious Blood which He ſhed for your Sake. Nay, you have the infallible Teſtimony from His own Mouth: *And him that cometh unto me, I will in no-wiſe caſt out. Haſte*, then; *O haſte* unto the Saviour of Sinners! *Fly, fly* unto the Son of GOD! *Deſtruction* purſues you while *without*; *Safety* is *within* the City of Refuge. *The* LORD *make you willing in the Day of His Power.* May your Heart become His Reſidence, and may His Merit be your Paſſport into eternal Glory. This is the Prayer of

your dutiful Son, &c. &c.

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LETTER LXXXIII.

My dearest Friend, *Monday, 12 July.*

I Much wished, that instead of a Message by your Neighbour, I had received a Letter from yourself. I greatly want to hear from you again, tho' I was thankful to hear any Thing of you: I hope the Messenger said true, that you are pretty well. I am something better than I was, which makes me desirous to write; for I doubt not but my last Account would give you some Concern. Tho' I know not of any Opportunity to send this, yet I will write—to be ready.

But what shall I say, my dear Friend? Indeed I am barren, and most unprofitable. I find the Truth of those Words in the Lesson for to Day: *How can one be warm alone?* I am sure I cannot, at most, not more than for a few Moments; when the LORD is pleased to let me feel the Times of refreshing from His gracious Presence. How soon do I return again to my spiritual Sleepiness, and seem like a Creature neither fit to live or die. Then I am a Burden to myself, and of no Service to others. But I trust all this will work together for Good. The LORD shews me my Vileness, that I may indeed loath myself; a Lesson I have long been learning, and I find many, and various Trials are needful to make me perfect in it. I am sure the LORD will lay no more upon me than is absolutely necessary, and mercifully uphold me in every Conflict.

My bodily Sufferings were never great, compar'd with what I have deserved; now they are very small. O that the *Will* of GOD may be done

in

in us, and *by* us: Bleſſed be His Name for giving us this Deſire; and will He not fulfil it? Moſt certainly: Let us not be faithleſs, but believing.

I am, with the moſt ſincere Wiſhes,
for your ſpiritual and bodily Welfare,
my dear Friend,
yours in the Truth. J. B.

LETTER LXXXIV.

My very dear Father, *Dec.* 30, 1756.

IT gives me no ſmall Pleaſure to hear from any of my Friends; but Gratitude and Duty bind me to love, and value you moſt, from whom I have proceeded. I earneſtly care for your preſent, and eternal Welfare. If I knew how to do you Good, it ſhould not be undone. But if GOD has given *me* a Concern for your Salvation, and a Pity to your Soul, How much more Compaſſion hath He towards you, *who ſpared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all: How then will He not with Him freely give us all Things? Greater Love hath no Man, than that a Man lay down his Life for his Friends; but* GOD *commended his Love unto us, that while we were yet Sinners,* yea, Enemies, *Chriſt died for us.* Fly! then; O fly, my dear Father, and fly! O my Soul! to the *precious, precious* Blood of JESUS, that He may be made ours by *Faith.* That His Righteouſneſs may cover us, His Grace enlighten us, His Power defend us, His Goodneſs comfort us, His Mercies embrace us, His Spirit ſanctify us, and His Kingdom entertain us for ever. What ſhould divert our Minds from

ſo

ſo glorious a Purſuit? Bleſſed are they who are in the heavenly *Chaſe*. Oh! now make Haſte to the *Canaan* of Happineſs. Fear not to find out the much-neglected Path; though it lieth through a lonely Wilderneſs, the LORD will be a Pillar of a Cloud by *Day*, and of Fire by *Night*. He will guide you in the Way of Uprightneſs. Tho' the Sea be rough, and the Winds rage, we have an unerring Pilot at the Helm, who will aſſuredly bring us to the Haven where we would be, if we continue in the Ship. Look! O look beyond the narrow Bounds of Time, and take a Survey of a boundleſs Eternity: Stretch forward to the heavenly Plains, where Happineſs is clad in everlaſting Green; and where, amid the verdant Landſcape, Streams of endleſs Pleaſures roll. My beſt Wiſhes for all my Relations, my filial Duty to you, while

I remain your ever affectionate Son, &c.

LETTER LXXXV.

Madam,

I intended writing to you long ago, but was afraid it would have the Appearance of *Impertinence*. Encouraged by Mr. ***'s Aſſurance of a kind Acceptance of a Letter from me, I take this Opportunity to aſſure you, you have ſeldom been forgotten by me at the Throne of Grace, ſince I ſaw you.

It is your Mercy, that the ſame GOD who preſerved *Lot* in *Sodom*, is able and willing to preſerve you. Tho' *Evil Communications corrupt Good Manners*,

ners, there is a Poſſibility of walking "*unconſumed* "*in Fire.*" Your Opportunities of *hearing* the Word of GOD, are perhaps not ſo frequent as you deſire: But you may *read* your Bible, in which are contained the Things that make for your everlaſting Peace. The LORD has there promis'd to beſtow upon all that aſk in the Name of JESUS, the Spirit with which it was penn'd. You will perhaps reply, "But I am ſo much engaged in Com-"pany and Converſation, that my Mind is ſeldom "in a praying Frame." Many beſides you have gone to the Throne of Grace, with only this Promiſe in their Favour: "*The Spirit itſelf maketh* "*Interceſſion for us, with Groanings that cannot be* "WORDED."

Be not diſcouraged at the Hardneſs of your Heart; JESUS *can*, and *will*, if you continue to ſeek Him, "melt your Hardneſs into Love."

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXXVI.

My dear Father, *Sept.* 25, 1760.

THROUGH the kind Providence of GOD, I have been ſupported under the Hardſhips, and protected from the Dangers of a long Journey. I have had my Health pretty well, but ſince I came to L——, my Eyes have been, and now are ſomewhat worſe than uſual: It is the ſame Seaſon of the Year, as when they were ſo exceeding bad three Years ſince, when I was in *Cornwall*; which gives me ſome Apprehenſions they may be worſe than they now are. But in this

Matter,

Matter, as in all others, I ſay from my Heart, "Thy Will, O LORD, be done:" I know my heavenly Father cannot err in his Diſpenſations, and I will not chuſe for myſelf. I have given myſelf unto him in an everlaſting Covenant, and all my Powers and Properties are at his Diſpoſal. I having (in this ſenſe) left deſiring, my Soul finds continual Reſt in the comfortable Preſence and enjoyment of my SAVIOUR's Love.

What my Prayer, and Heart's Deſire for you my aged Father, and my kind Relations and Neighbours, is, that you may all be ſaved. I may ſpeak in the Language of St. *Paul, I travail in Birth for you, until Chriſt is formed in your Heart.* Shall I urge the ſhortneſs and uncertainty of Time, and the length of Eternity? Your grey Hairs, and feeble Limbs, and being full of Days, point you to the Grave, and call for a ſpeedy Preparation to ſtand naked before your GOD! Where nothing will be a ſuitable Garment to ſtand in, but the white Linnen, the Righteouſneſs of the Saints: Thoſe Robes which are waſhed and made white in the Blood of the Lamb.

It will only be aſked then, Whoſe Image and Superſcription doſt thou bear? The Image of CHRIST; Humility, Love, Patience, Meekneſs, and heavenly Mindedneſs; or Pride, Self-Will, Peeviſhneſs, and Anger. Theſe will qualify your Soul for Everlaſting Glory; or ſhut it up in Eternal Pain. Oh! my dear Father, and you my kind Friends, let me now entreat you with Tears, and the tendereſt Compaſſion, to make the beſt uſe of a ſhort Life. Beware of a worldly Spirit,

and

and a worldly Converſation. Fix this in your Hearts, that the preſent State of corrupt Nature, ſtands in direct Oppoſition to the Spirit of Chriſtianity. The Kingdom of GOD's Grace, of which you muſt be Partakers on Earth, if ever you are Partakers of his Glory above, conſiſts not in an outward Civility, but in a thorough Change of Nature, and Tempers; in *Righteouſneſs, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghoſt.* Oh! that this Kingdom may be ſet up in all your Hearts. This would make an Addition to my Joy; yea Heaven upon Earth; it would occaſion ſinging among the Quires of Angels above; and you would have the greateſt Reaſon of all others to be glad. Do not neglect; do not deſpair of this. *Aſk and you ſhall receive: Seek and you ſhall find.* The good LORD be with your Spirits. The LORD make his Face to ſhine upon you: And give you his Grace here, and Glory hereafter: So prays

Your dutiful Son and Servant, &c.

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA ·

FINIS.

E R R A T A.

Letter.	Page.	Line.	
13	35	6	for *proceeding*, read *preceding*.
13	36	13	read *Willingneſs*.
13	36	17	for *ook*, read *look*.
13	37	3	dele *that*.
18	45	6	r. on *toward Perfection*.
ibid.	ibid.	catch	line, dele *on*.
21	57	17	read *faithful*.
23	61	29	read *ſucceſs*.
27	66	laſt	line, read *of*.
29	71	8	for *Worsd*, read *Words*.
30	72	5	read *preſent Caſe notwithſtanding*.
ibid.	73	22	after *ſaw*, read *that*.
33	84	29	after *things*, read *that are*.
34	88	1	for *their*, read *the*.
ibid.	89	16	for *in*, read *is*.
37	101	4	for *ſo* read *to*.
51	133	20	for *in*, read *Sin*.
55	140	29	read *to anſwer*.
ibid.	ibid.	30	for *hat*, read *that*.
57	144	24	read will.
65	166	1	dele the firſt word *to*.
ibid.	ibid.	3	read *is* it *poſſible*.
78	175	laſt	word, read *to*.